



# THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

APRIL 2023

Volume 62, Number 4

## Resurrection Results



## RESURRECTION RESULTS

We've all heard what people call "the definition of insanity." It's often attributed to Albert Einstein, but whether he actually said it or not is beside the point. I think we would all agree that it's quite irrational and kind of crazy to think that we can continually do the same thing in the same way over and over again and yet somehow expect different results. No, we've learned, perhaps the hard way, that if we want something different to happen we need to do something differently. In a marriage, for example, we get into predictable patterns of behavior (a rut, if you will) which pretty much result in the same outcome each time over time. If we want to get out of the rut, we must intentionally behave differently and do things uncharacteristic of us. Often I'll tell people who want to see some beneficial change and improvement in their relationship to do deliberately something differently than they normally would. It throws off the pattern and results in some inevitable change, hopefully for the better.

Here in the month of April we have an inevitability and a very predictable pattern that we've all had to live with. It's called income tax. For the most part, there's no getting around it. You may pay more, or you may pay less, and you might even get money back, but you've got to file a return, usually by April 15. This year, the deadline is April 18 on account of the fact that the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday and the next weekday, April 17, is recognized as Emancipation Day in Washington, DC. So everyone has a few extra days this year before the new April 18 deadline, but even so, there is a deadline, a drop dead date, as it were. In fact, so inevitable is income tax that Benjamin Franklin famously said, "in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes."

So how about death? Is it really inevitable and unavoidable? According to the Bible, there are only two people who ever lived here on earth who then never actually died. The first was Enoch, whom we read had such a close personal relationship with God that he "walked with God," and then suddenly "he was not, for God took him" (Genesis 5:24). The other one was the prophet Elijah. We read that while he was talking with Elisha "chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven" (2 Kings

2:11). There are several others in the Bible who died and then were resurrected back to life in this world. For example, we heard about Lazarus' resurrection in our lengthy John 11 Gospel reading on March 25-26 weekend, but then eventually, Lazarus and all the others who were raised to life did die again.

How about Jesus? We would think that if ever there was an Enoch or Elijah type whom God would allow to escape death it would have been Jesus. But the fact is, Jesus came into this world for the express purpose of dying. Why is that? Well, the Bible says that the result of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and because "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23) therefore "it is appointed for man to die" (Hebrews 9:27). But Jesus however, even though He was tempted in every way that we are, was completely without sin (Hebrews 4:15) and therefore when He became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21) He was able to suffer death as our substitute sacrifice and satisfy the death penalty our sin deserves.

But how can we know that Jesus' innocent sacrifice was completely acceptable and sufficient to make atonement for our sin? The proof is in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. In his beloved resurrection chapter, St. Paul puts it like this: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:17-20). Jesus' resurrection is essential to our salvation for it demonstrates that His death truly was lifesaving for all eternity. This is why St. Paul writes in another place that Jesus "was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:25). Yes, the resurrection of Jesus matters. It's essential and a total game changer. Join us in worship for the seven weeks of the Easter season and celebrate with us the amazing life-changing results of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.



# 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

## HOLY WEEK at ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN

Maundy Thursday - April 6, 2023 - 6:30 pm

Good Friday - April 7, 2023 - 6:30 pm

Easter Vigil - April 8, 2023 - 5:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Worship - April 9, 2023 - 7:30 am

- *Enjoy a Family Breakfast served by our Youth Ministry between services!*

Morning Song Worship - April 9, 2023 - 11:00 am



# WORSHIP

Gathering around God's Word and Sacraments to receive His gifts & give Him glory.

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*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*

"Lamb of God, pure and holy,  
Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly,  
Thyself to scorn didst offer.  
All sins Thou borest for us,  
Else had despair reigned o'er us:  
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O, Jesus!"

+++

When we have the opportunity to worship during Lent, we are given a beautiful blessing to see Christ crucified on the cross. At the same time, we are also given the gift of slowing down and intentionally observing God at work.

We are all so busy, yet so is God. He is busy saving us from our sins, even when we are busy. Oftentimes people try to "stay busy" to distract themselves from the despair they may be feeling in their hearts.

Jesus didn't give Himself the opportunity for such distractions; instead, He purposefully took upon Himself our sin, despair, scorn, and pain. Even though we are so used to the image and reflection of Jesus, dying on the cross, we can take moments during this church season to once again remember just how low Jesus went for us.

Take time to observe the Lamb of God on the cross, and remember, once again, that Jesus did all of this for you. If He hadn't, "despair would reign over us", as the hymn says. But Jesus did, and so we have joy instead of despair, and peace instead of pain.

God bless you in Jesus' name!

*Pastor Maske*



## April 2, 2023 – Palm Sunday

PSALM 118:19-29; PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11; JOHN 12:20-43

"SEEING JESUS" – SERMON TEXT: JOHN 12:20-21

– REV. THOMAS EGGOLD

The answer to the Palm Sunday crowd, and to you and me, is that to see Jesus, is to see the cross. This is the message of Palm Sunday. That Jesus knowingly, willingly, obediently, resolutely rode into Jerusalem to the misguided shouts of "Hosanna" to do for us what had to be done – and what only He could do – by enduring an undeserved and unthinkable death in our place to give us life.

## April 9, 2023 – The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunrise)

PSALM 118:15-19; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11; JOHN 20:1-18

"CHRIST IS RISEN!" – SERMON TEXT: JOHN 20:17

– REV. DR. LAWRENCE RAST, JR.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. We shout these words joyfully and triumphantly because the resurrection of Jesus shows us that the work of salvation is complete. As those he has called by name, we rejoice that we, too will rise, just as he did.

## April 16, 2023 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

PSALM 148; 1 PETER 1:3-9; JOHN 20:19-31

"WORDS AND WOUNDS" – SERMON TEXT: JOHN 20:19

– REV. SHAYNE JONKER

Jesus' words and His wounds make every Sunday a little Easter. With His words and His wounds, Jesus brings peace to His fearful disciples. With His words and His wounds, He sends them to speak forgiveness with His own breath and Spirit. And with His words and His wounds, He reaches out to an unbelieving disciple and to each of us.

## April 23, 2023 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

PSALM 116:1-14; 1 PETER 1:17-25; LUKE 24:13-35

"A WALK WITH JESUS" – SERMON TEXT: LUKE 24:13-35

– REV. PAUL SHOEMAKER

Two disciples were walking to Emmaus. They knew of Jesus' death but not His resurrection. They were despondent. They lost all hope. But when the risen Jesus revealed Himself, hope was restored. Let's keep our eyes on Jesus, even in the midst of trying times, so our eyes may be opened and we may have hope in Christ.

## April 30, 2023 – 4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

PSALM 43; 1 PETER 2:19-25; JOHN 10:1-10

"WANTED: GOOD SHEPHERD" – SERMON TEXT: 1 PETER 2:19-25

– REV. WILLIAM MUELLER

If a job description were written for a shepherd, how would it read? What things would be identified as critical items for a shepherd to perform? How would the job description of the Good Shepherd read? Dig deep into Scripture to discover and celebrate how Jesus is the Good Shepherd.



St. Michael's traditional 8:30 AM service is now posted to the Spiritual TV Channel, according to this schedule:  
Charter Spectrum Channel 187  
9 AM & 9 PM

### ***We pray for Homebound***

***friends:*** Sally Beck, Caroline Barkow, Shirley Cosgrove, Ginny Evans, Dorothy Ferguson, Audrey Glover, Maxine June, Flo Kangas\*, Phyllis Kurlowicz, Carrol McCarty\*, Nancy Miller, Dean Monck, Wilma Ritchie, Marilyn Sible, Joyce Stafford, Darlene Surch, Carol Truhn, Ernie & Judi VanOrman, Sharon White

## 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*

## HAVE YOU VISITED OUR LIBRARY LATELY?

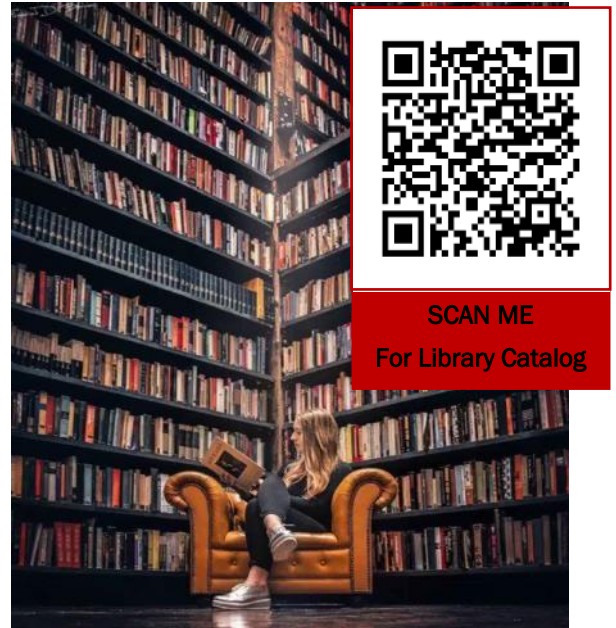
Conveniently located off the Welcome Center through the church's Main Entrance, our library offers more than 6.5K books and other materials for both children and adults.

Remember, if your name is in the church directory, then you have a library card! Items can be borrowed for 4 weeks.

New titles are always being added. Stop in between services every Sunday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. when the library is staffed by a volunteer.

Browse or search the online catalog anytime at this link: <https://stmikeschoolmi.booksys.net/opac/smls/index.html#menuHome>

For more information, email [library@mightymessengers.org](mailto:library@mightymessengers.org)





**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!**

**JULY 24-28**  
+++  
**9AM-NOON**

With a family celebration on the evening of July 29th



**Vacation Bible School 2023**

**LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED!!**

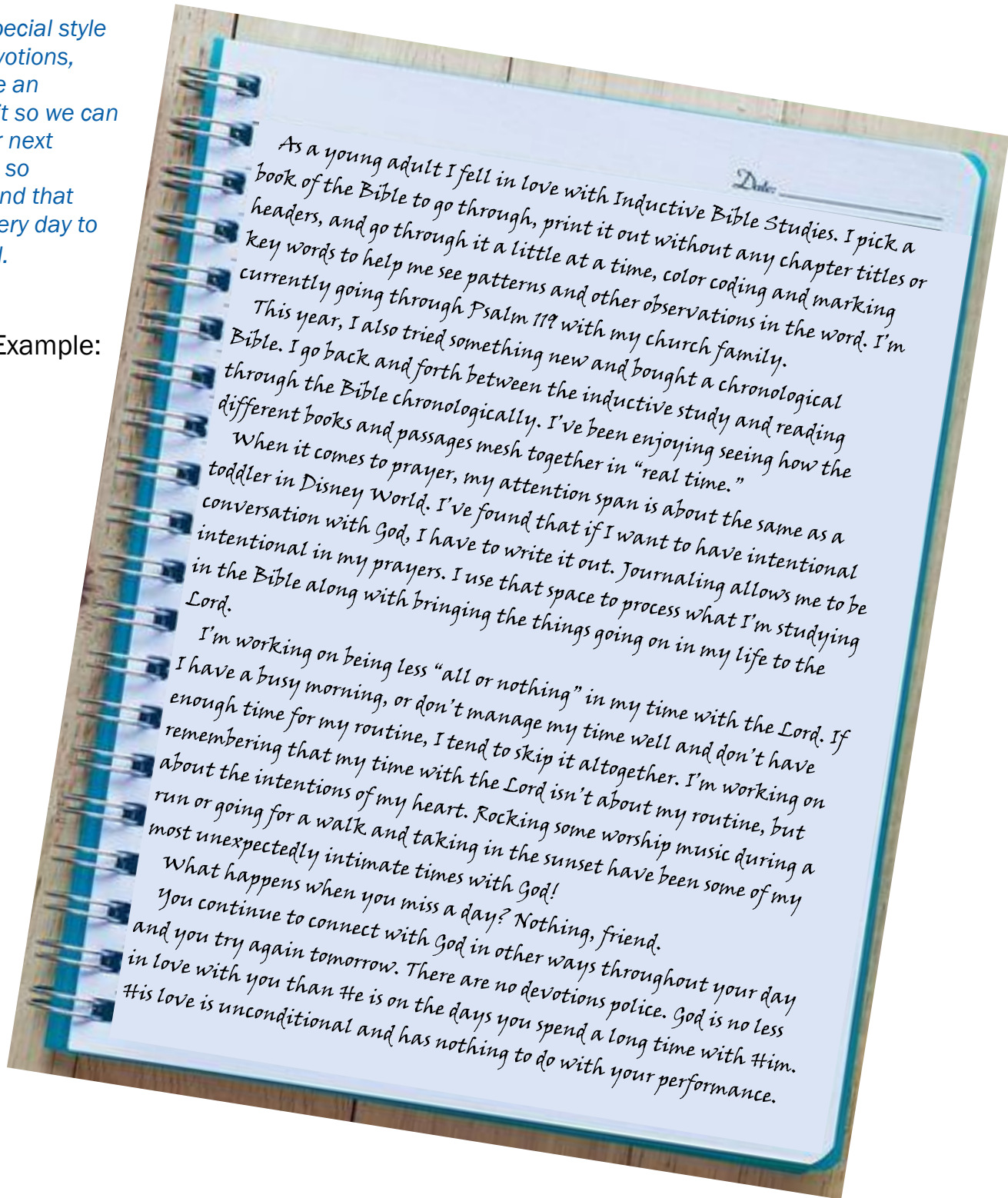
Please consider your schedule and get registered early. Attending a training session to prepare is vital. Having the full team prepared to welcome our guests is so important!

[mightymessengers.org/vbs](https://mightymessengers.org/vbs)

## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

If you have a special style of Personal Devotions, please send me an explanation of it so we can include it in our next newsletter. It is so comforting to find that special time every day to spend with God.

Bethany's  
Devotion Example:



I probably have longer devotions 5 times a week. Sometimes I wake up late and don't have time for my set aside time with God, but I listened to worship music to help me reset my faith as I got ready for my day. Generally, once a week, I try to take a long walk with no music or podcasts and just think and talk to God as well.

Having a daily devotional time is key to growing your faith. The more you spend time with God the more your relationship will grow, your trust will deepen and the sweeter your time together will be.

If you practice a personal devotion time, please send an explanation to me and we can share it next month.

God Bless!! Virginia Hetrick – virbhtr@gmail.com



# EVANGELISM

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

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*We value evangelism and believe that the good news of the forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the main message of the church. We care about meeting all human needs but recognize that the most important need people have is for a love relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and so we reach out with this saving Gospel and proclaim the truth of God's Word to all people without compromise. Acts 1:8*



## 2023 SUMMER ST. MICHAEL LAMP TRIP

The team is beginning to gather to plan the August 10-20 LAMP Trip. We will be working on the curriculum for the Vacation Bible School as well as for Youth and Adult Bible Studies. It's not too late to join the travel team but you would need to let us know very soon!

**Prayers for Lac Brochet:** They are going through a very hard time with suicide and the death of loved ones. They need more than ever the hope that only Jesus brings.

In preparation for the summer trip the team will be gathering items to send and to take with us to Lac Brochet. We will need to purchase plane tickets and mail things ahead of our trip. We are dependent on God providing the resources we need through His people for this special ministry.

**Thank You for all your Prayers and Support!**



## INTRODUCING

## ANGELLA BREVITZ

*The New Executive Director  
For Jesus Loves Kzoo*



We are so thankful for God's direction in hiring a new champion for the Jesus Loves Kzoo movement!

Last year, Angella Brevitz participated in OneWorship prayer ministry, Catalyst Week grill sites and street ministry, and JLK/365 follow up calls and connections events. Only the Lord knew that she would be the one He would lead to apply and accept the position as the new director of Jesus Loves Kzoo. Angella is passionate about unity in the Body of Christ, intercessory prayer, and compassion for others. Her favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:28, *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."* NIV Please be in prayer for Angella and Jesus Loves Kzoo as we move forward in this transition. We are excited and encouraged to see the Lord at work!



In our vision team meetings it was clear to host a catalyst week again this year. With Julie Kaiser passing off the baton and being in the middle of a search for a new director it would be easy to take the year off. We feel God has more in-store for this city and we are excited to play a part in keeping the flame burning for him.

**Sunday July 9 - One Worship** will be back at Bronson Park. Don't miss this amazing time of corporate prayer and worship, as we prepare our hearts to encounter God during the week.

**Monday July 10 - Thursday, July 13 - Traditional Grill sites.** We are still working on which sites to host at. We are scaling back our number of sites, in hopes of increasing our street ministry at each site. Street ministry is part of how JLK started, and is an awesome time to go out as a group and walk the streets and pray for the area, and pray with those you encounter. We know it's not easy for many to take the step of faith to go on street ministry, but it's one worth taking.

**Friday, July 14 - TBD** - We are in the beginning stages of planning for bringing back a night of worship and celebration on the north side.



## HAVE YOU SEEN THE



## 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?

- Newsprint
- 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





# Christ for Kids

Summer 2023

**Zoomerang! Returning to the Value of Life**-exploring the wonder and value of life, from the lives of preborn babies to eternal life in the kingdom of God.

Christ for Kids summer theme for 2023 is Zoomerang! Returning to the Value of Life! In addition to our study of God's word, the students will participate in a wide variety of fun and engaging activities. Mondays we will have chapel outside in our outdoor worship area. Wednesdays we will make lunch for the kids here at school. Tuesdays and Thursdays is water day!! Most Fridays we will have a surprise special event or visitor.

We plan to have Soccer Shots here again this summer. We do not have the information from them at this time, but as soon as they have it, they will pass along to us and we will get out to the parents.

**Vacation Bible School**-Vacation Bible School will be in person this summer. If your child is Kindergarten and above, you can enroll them into the VBS program separately and we will take them down there during that time. You will need to register through the Church website for VBS if you want them to participate through the church. Or you can choose to not register them with the church and they will do VBS with CFK teachers. If you chose to not register them with the church, or space is full, they will still get to participate in the activities, they will just be a part of the CFK group.

## Daily Activities:

- Monday: Chapel Day
- Tuesday: WATER DAY for all ages
- Wednesday: make our own lunch Day (no need to pack a lunch on Wednesdays)
- Thursday: WATER DAY for all ages
- Friday: Fun Friday!

\*CFK will be closed June 19 to prepare for summer.

\*CFK will be closed July 3 and July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

\*CFK will be closed on August 9 for a whole center wide training with the Michigan District for Early Childhood centers.

\*Christ for Kids will be closed the week of August 21-August 25 for staff training and cleaning of the center.

\*Christ for Kids will be closed on September 1 and 4 for the Labor Day Holiday.



## **MEALS and SNACKS**

Christ for Kids will provide a healthy mid-morning and afternoon snack including a serving of milk or juice. Students will need to bring a sack lunch and if desired a breakfast from home. Milk will be provided for both breakfast and lunch. On Wednesdays we will be making lunch here for everyone. You will not need to bring a lunch on Wednesdays.



## **Soccer Shots coming to Christ for Kids**

We are excited to offer this again at Christ for Kids this summer. Soccer Shots is an engaging children's soccer program with a focus on character development. For ages 3-5 years old, Soccer Shots utilizes creative and imaginative games to focus on basic soccer skills like dribbling, passing and shooting. They also highlight a positive character trait each session such as respect teamwork, and appreciation.

For ages 6-8 years old, Soccer Shots focuses on individual skill, fitness, and sportsmanship, providing an opportunity for children to be challenged through fun games and team interaction. Children will also be introduced to competition in a developmentally appropriate manner.

The class will meet once a week while the children are here. It will go for 7 weeks once it starts. You will sign up through Soccer Shots and pay through them as well. It is not required that you participate. More information will be coming about this as soon as we receive it from Soccer Shots.

**Summer 2023 Childcare Registration Form is available [HERE!!](#)**

**\* or visit with Mrs. Ritchie in the CFK office. Summer care begins on June 20th. If you need care after June 20th, please fill this out. A separate form for each child.**

Students ages 3- 5 years (and have not yet completed kindergarten)		
	SMLC Members	Non-Members
Half Day	\$26.00 per 1/2 day	\$30.00 per 1/2 day
Full Day	\$44.00/Day	\$48.00/Day
Full Time	\$220.00/Week	\$240.00/Week
School Age Students (must have completed kindergarten)		
	SMLC Members	Non-Member
Half Day	\$26.00 per 1/2 day	\$30.00 per 1/2 day
Full Day	\$44.00/Day	\$48.00/Day
5 Full Days/Wk	\$176.00/Week	\$192.00/Week





### NEW STEPHEN MINISTERS COMMISSIONED RECENTLY



Stephen Ministry, which helps people cope with difficult life challenges, recently welcomed three new members to its St. Michael team. **Zach Button**, **Bob Besser**, and **Pam Seward** each have completed 50 hours of training and were commissioned March 19 as Stephen Ministers.

**Zach Button** says he decided to become a Stephen Minister after experiencing the pain of losing a close friend to suicide. He said he hopes he can prevent others in difficult circumstances from getting so low as to contemplate such a desperate measure.

A runner who completed his first marathon last year, Zach's daily jogs were repeatedly intercepted by St. Michael members who asked him to pray with them outside the Planned Parenthood clinic in Kalamazoo. At their invitation, he eventually visited St. Michael, liked its familiarity due to his Catholic upbringing, and joined the church several years ago. Zach also is a new lay minister. He works at Stryker, where he oversees indirect procurement operations.

**Bob Besser** and **Pam Seward** are both lifelong LCMS Lutherans who knew each other many years ago at Zion Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo. They will be married May 6.

The couple heard an announcement about Stephen Ministry while visiting St. Michael, and their

decision to take the training class also contributed to them joining the church. They will be officially welcomed into the fellowship later this month, along with others from Pastor Naumann's "Exploring Our Faith" class.

Pam was counseled by a Stephen Minister many years ago during a painful divorce and remembers the peace and comfort she received. She says she welcomes the opportunity to do the same for another person.

Having earned a master's degree in family life education, Pam works as a part-time instructor for the Family and Consumer Science Department at Western Michigan University, where she also is a career development specialist.

Serving other people has been a driving force in Bob's life. He volunteered for nearly 20 years with The Arc Community Advocates, where his late wife, Cheryl, had been a board member. He also worked with people with disabilities in Allegan County as an employment coordinator at a sheltered workshop. Bob is a job setter at American Axle in Three Rivers.

All three of our new Stephen Ministers are available to meet one-on-one with those needing confidential support and Christ-centered care. To request a Stephen Minister, contact a Stephen Leader such as Dana Naumann at 269-808-7832.

# 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*





MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST  
SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH



9:00am to 1:00pm



This is an awesome opportunity to sell items your children and family have outgrown, or to purchase gently used items you may need. If you would like to sell items at this event, fill out the [Registration Form](#) and pay the registration fee, no later than April 1, 2023.

You may rent a double space with 2 tables for \$50, or \$40 and bring your own tables. A single space rental would be \$30 with 1 table, or \$25 and bring your own table. You are allowed two garment racks (*bring your own*) per space. You will also be allowed to sell large baby gear items in your space. We ask that you let us know in advance if you have large items you would like to sell, so we may

accommodate the space needed.

Set-up and special presale for sellers and volunteers will take place on Friday, April 14th from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm. There will be a pre-sale for sellers and volunteers from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Make sure to have bags and money for change.

Please see the [Registration Form](#), for more information and let us know if you have any questions! If you do not have items you wish to sell, you are welcome to come shop at the event.

*Hope to see you there!*

A vibrant yellow poster for a 'Ladies' Post-Every Birthday Bash'. The title is written in a mix of blue, black, and pink fonts, with stars interspersed. Below the title, it says 'Mothers, Daughters Sisters & Friends...' in pink. The event details are listed in blue and black text: 'Saturday, May 6th - Beginning at 1:30 pm'. At the bottom, it says 'Celebrate being a child of God with food and fun!' and 'Be sure to register by April 30th! - mightymessengers.org'. The background is decorated with confetti and several colorful party hats. A small circular logo with a woman and child is in the bottom right corner.

**Ladies' Post-Every Birthday Bash**

*Mothers, Daughters Sisters & Friends...*

A light-hearted afternoon of games, food and fellowship.

Craft a special gift for yourself!

**Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> - Beginning at 1:30 pm**

Celebrate being a child of God with food and fun!

**Be sure to register by April 30th! - [mightymessengers.org](http://mightymessengers.org)**

# SERVICE

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

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*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*

## BANNER MINISTRY

You may have noticed banners hanging in the church sanctuary. They are taken down during the Lenten season, but they add color and interest to our worship services during the rest of the year. We have over 25 banners and are looking for members of St. Michael who would like to help take care of them. This work includes preparing a record book with photos of the banners and notations of their church seasons, inspecting the banners to see if any need repair, purchasing or making new banners, and changing the banners in the sanctuary to match the church seasons. This would be a very special way for members of our congregation to contribute to our worship services. If you have an interest in helping in this area, please contact Greg Wedel, Board of Lay Ministry.



## GARDEN CAREGIVERS ARE NEEDED!!

The island in our parking lot is a special place and everyone loves to see its ever-changing beauty, as they drive into our parking lot. Those that have cared for it for many years are no longer able to do so and really hope to see that it is maintained with tender loving care. If you might be interested in being the master gardener or a helper, please let the Church Office know soon. *The season of renewal is coming!*



UNANSWERED BIBLE QUESTIONS... Issues, Etc., a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio, will have Pastors Bryan Wolfmueller and Brian Kachelmeier respond to your unanswered Bible questions. You can submit your question via email: [talkback@issuesetc.org](mailto:talkback@issuesetc.org); Facebook: [facebook.com/issuesetc](https://facebook.com/issuesetc); or the Issues, Etc. Comment Line: (618) 223-8382. You can listen to the interview at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.



# 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/>

## FEBUARY FINANCIALS

4 Months

11/1/2021-2/28/2023

Church Revenue	\$ 302,351
School Revenue	\$ <u>400,497</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 702,847
Total Expenses	\$ <u>669,380</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 33,467
Expense Budget	\$ 667,198
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 35,650
Working Cash Balance	\$ 62,636
Mortgage Balance	\$ 698,974

### Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$581,215
Building Contingency	\$ 26,402
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 13,972
Sunday School	\$ 1,628
Youth Donations	\$ 19,009
Youth Accounts	\$ 5,936
Good Samaritan	\$ 1,147
Memorials	\$ 8,117
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 3,860
Quilting	\$ 302
POBLO Afghan Support	\$ 552
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 585
School Improvements	\$ 39,982
Tuition Assistance	\$ 61,479
School Music	\$ 1,043
Flower Fund	\$ 6,216
CFK Mission Expansion	\$ 90,000
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 2,088
Faith Budget	\$ 371

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Jan. '23 Avg. ....	337
Feb. '23 Avg. ....	293
March '23 Avg. ....	293

Annual Avg. 2021 .....	265
Annual Avg. 2022 .....	295
Annual Avg. 2023 .....	315

# 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**

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
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      Alicia Keinath

## **WORSHIP MEDIA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**

Chris Rudowske

## **WORSHIP MEDIA SPECIALIST**

Lorraine Dudash

## **CHOIR DIRECTOR**

Carolyn Bertrand

## **ORGANIST**

Keith Eiser

## **MORNING SONG DIRECTOR**

Jane Connon

## **SEXTONS**

Brian Chapman  
Matthew Wright

## **VOLUNTEERS:**

### **PRESIDENT**

Mark Ruesch

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Rob Kuhlmann

### **TREASURER**

Kristi Rudowske

## **BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTIES**

Ryan Nelson, 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  
Cindy Hunter, 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, Bob Besser, Zachary Button,  
Jackie Michels, Peter Robert, Bill Semrau,  
Pam Sward, Kathy Zakarias

## **BOARD OF EVANGELISM & MISSIONS**

Valerian Kwigizile, Director  
Kathie Seufert, Assistant Director

### **GREETERS**

Arlene Groll, Mark & Jan Chilcott

## **BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION**

Kristen Shook, Director  
Deb Hackett, Assistant Director

### **ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

Jesse Hogue

### **CRADLE ROLL**

Peggy Makowski

## **BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP**

Vacant, Director  
Judy Schroeder, Assistant Director

### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Arla Mayhew

### **LWML**

Sandy Maya

### **SOFTBALL**

Shannon Miskovich

## **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

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