



# THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

MARCH 2023

Volume 62, Number 3



The Way



To the Cross





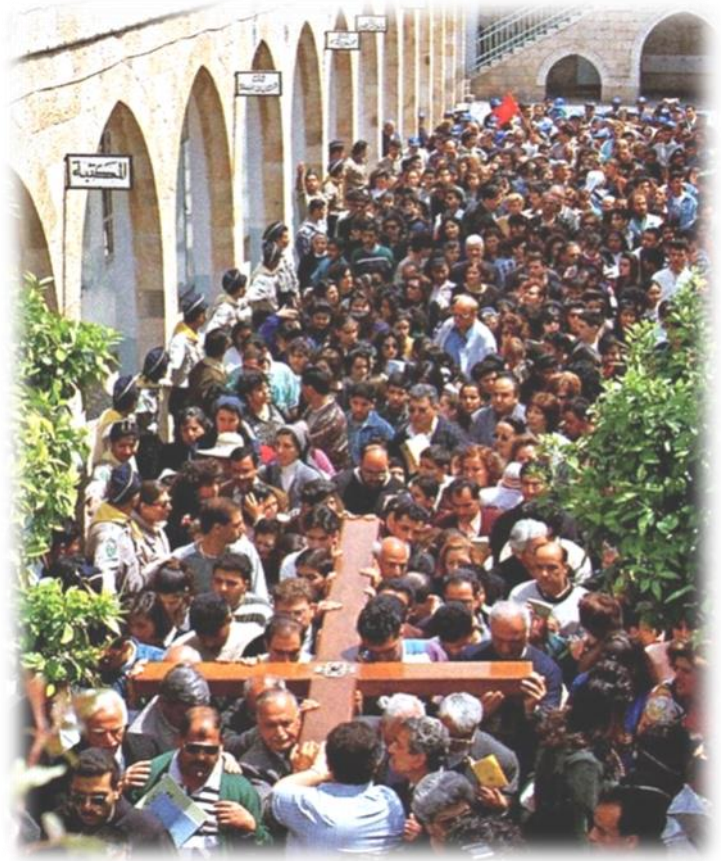
## THE WAY TO THE CROSS

As historically many Christians have done at Lent, we too are following our Savior, Jesus Christ, down the Via Dolorosa, the “Way of Sorrows,” on His way to where He will be nailed to the cross and die for our sins. The Bible gives us a number of steps along the way, but not all those that are marked out in the traditional “Stations of the Cross.”

For our Lenten journey here at St. Michael, we are limiting ourselves to those explicitly mentioned in the Gospels and that gives us one station to observe each Wednesday night in Lent leading up to Holy Week and the remembrance of Jesus’ passion on Maundy Thursday (*April 6*) and Good Friday (*April 7*).

For Jesus, the way to the cross was marked with extreme pain and suffering, but it was all necessary for our salvation. Jesus is Himself “The Way” (see John 14:6) and the only way for us to come into perfect fellowship with God, our Heavenly Father, for all eternity. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus pleaded with His Father, agonizing with bloody sweat, for some other way than the way of the cross for Him to save the world. But Jesus knew that there could be no other way and so He submitted to the eternal plan of salvation, and opened to us the way to eternal life.

Many in this world are trying to find their own way in life and ultimately even into eternal life without really knowing how to do it. At the end of their life they just content themselves by saying, “I did it my way.” But sadly, as the Bible reveals to us, the way that seems right to people only ends in death (see Proverbs 14:12). No, we need another way, a better way, a more excellent way, we need the narrow way that leads to eternal life (see Matthew 7:13-14). As you watch Jesus make His way to the cross this Lenten season, remember that Jesus is Himself “the Way” going to the cross, realizing all the while that it was the only way that He could go in order to save us from our sins and to give to us



the free gift of eternal life.

There’s no way that you and I would be willing to do what Jesus did, unjustly suffer torturous death that we don’t deserve, so that others might go free (*even our enemies*), but that’s exactly what Jesus did. Jesus not only took the way least traveled, He took the way that no man had ever gone or could go before.

As Luther put it, Jesus took the way of innocent suffering and death, so that we might be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. No wonder the early Church was called “the Way” (see Acts 19:9; 24:12) for Jesus not only has shown us the way but has made a way for us, a “new and living way that He has opened for us” (Hebrews 10:20) through His blood. Way to go, Jesus!

Handwritten signature of Paul F. Schumacher

# WE ARE CALLED

to make disciples of *Jesus*

## LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

3/8 23:26)	Lent Midweek 2	6:30 PM <b>Jesus' Cross Carried by Simon</b> (Luke (Meal @ 5PM, Confirmation Lesson 5:30PM, Small Group 6PM)
3/11-12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	5:00 PM      8:30AM      11:00 AM
3/15 31)	Lent Midweek 3	6:30 PM <b>Jesus Wept Over by Women</b> (Luke 23:27- (Meal @ 5PM, Confirmation Lesson 5:30PM, Small Group 6PM)
3/18-19	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	5:00 PM      8:30AM      11:00 AM
3/22 23:33)	Lent Midweek 4	6:30 PM <b>Jesus Stripped of His Garments</b> (Luke (Meal @ 5PM, Confirmation Lesson 5:30PM, Small Group 6PM)
3/25-26	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	5:00 PM      8:30AM      11:00 AM
3/29	Lent Midweek 5	6:30 PM <b>Jesus Nailed to the Cross</b> (John 20:24-25) (Meal @ 5PM, Confirmation Lesson 5:30PM, Small Group 6PM)
4/1-2	Palm Sunday	5:00 PM      8:30AM 11:00 AM
4/6	Maundy Thursday	6:30 PM (Communion)
4/7	Good Friday	6:30 PM
4/8	Easter Vigil	5:00 PM
4/9	Easter Sunrise	7:30 AM
	<i>Family Breakfast</i>	9:00 AM
	Morning Song	11:00 AM



**ALL SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE on Thursday, March 23 from 6:30-7:30 pm.** The last open house was cancelled due to the ice storm and this new date will be another opportunity for you to learn about the coming school year, ask questions of teachers, and share this information with friends and neighbors who may be interested in a Christ-centered, quality education. Please make sure to put this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

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

# 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 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*

"Lamb of God, pure and holy  
who on the cross did suffer,  
ever patient and lowly,  
yourself to scorn did offer."

During Lent we have the blessing of being able to focus on the cross. The next time you are in our sanctuary, take a look at our cross behind the altar. It's beautiful, clean, and we even process into worship with it at times.

But isn't this a little odd? Crosses were used not just to kill people, but to torture them until the point of bitter death. Crosses were used multiple times for different people being executed... covered with old blood and pain.

So why do we have a cross in our sanctuary, let alone our own homes? We do this to remember just how much God loves us. God loves us to the point of death, even death on a cross. As St Paul wrote, "we proclaim Christ crucified"... because that's what God decided to do. To send His only Son Jesus to die in our place.

Easter is coming (and Christ IS risen!), but Lent affords us some time to slow down and remember the depth of God's love for us and the whole world. Slow down with Jesus and take some time to focus your hearts and minds on the cross.

Pastor Maske





March 5, 2023 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

PSALM 121; ROMANS 4:1-8; JOHN 3:1-17

"GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL" – SERMON TEXT: JOHN 3:1-17

– REV. PAUL SHOEMAKER

John 3:16 is well known in the Christian community. But outside of the church this Bible reference has little meaning, if any. God, through the apostle John, has given us the words we need to clearly proclaim His Gospel message to all.



March 12, 2023 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

PSALM 95:1-9; EXODUS 17:1-7; JOHN 4:5-30, 39-42

"THE MAN AT THE WELL" – SERMON TEXT: JOHN 4:5-30, 39-42

– REV. WILLIAM MUELLER

John 4 gives us the beautiful details of an encounter a woman had with a man at a well. In this encounter we enjoy a window into the grace of God, and we ultimately see this man at the well is no mere man. He is the God-Man, Jesus Christ!



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

March 19, 2023 – 4th Sunday in Lent

PSALM 142; EPHESIANS 5:8-14; JOHN 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

"THE MEASURE OF A LIFE" – SERMON TEXT: JOHN 9:3

– REV. DR. THOMAS AHLERSMEYER

What makes for a good life? One traveled on a smooth and successful path? Or does Jesus have even something greater in mind amidst the trials and struggles we all face? We see what Jesus says about *The Measure of a Life*.

March 26, 2023 – 5th Sunday in Lent

PSALM 130; ROMANS 8:1-4, 11; JOHN 11:17-44

"THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE" – SERMON TEXT: JOHN 11:17-44

– REV. DR. WALTER MAIER III

Death is the enemy all of us must face. We will, in fact, die. But more can be said. Someone ment and defeated Death for us: Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life.

### *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

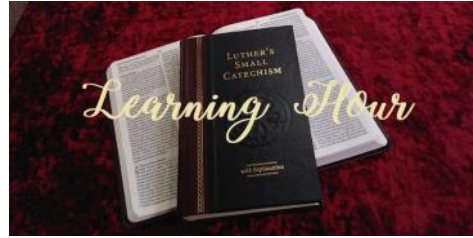
- 30-Minute Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod worship service
- Produced by Lutherans for the homebound, hospitalized...
- Includes the Gospel, Epistle, and Sermon by LCMS pastors
- Music by choirs, soloists, and small groups

# 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*



**SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:45-10:45 AM**



Pastor Nauman will teach a 40-day study designed to help you grow in your relationship with God. Many people want to be greater followers of Jesus, and they want some handles on the process. It doesn't start with rules—it starts with a relationship. The best way to grow in our relationship with God is to learn from Jesus, the one who had a perfect relationship with Him. Jesus' love and life demonstrate habits that point us to God and transform our lives. Are you ready? Being Challenge is from the bestselling Red Letter Challenge series. In the Music Room.

**Already Gone and Already Compromised** - This class is for Jr/Sr youth and their parents and anyone interested in reaching generation Z! Food will be provided! The foundations of our faith are crumbling. We can't just stand by and watch the church decline. Come find out how we can work together to help millennials and Gen Z return to church. Not only that, but how we as SMLC can equip Gen Z and their parents to STAND FIRM on God's Word, defend the faith, and boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to our secular culture. *Ready for Reformation Videos*, by Ken Ham and *Quick Answers to Tough Questions*, by Bryon Osborne. Class led by Angie Heimlich n Allan Hall.

## CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS: Discipleship Series

By Dean W. Nadasdy and Thomas J. Doyle

Led by Jan Jett beginning March 19

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## ROOM #

119	4th - 7th grades
122	Preschool-Kindergarten
123	1st - 3rd grades
207	8th - High School - <i>Studying the Scriptures of the week</i>

As we move forward in our ideas for Personal Devotions, I would like to offer a style that my daughter, Kari Scare, uses. She is a Book Editor and Researcher and works at home. Here is how she finds the time to spend with the Lord every day.



In *Atomic Habits*, James Clear says that consistent habits come out of good systems instead of pure self-discipline. I've certainly learned that self-discipline alone won't keep me consistent with any habit. So, I maintain my daily devotional and Bible study time through a commitment to a solid system. Doing so leads to consistency even when life gets hectic; it even works for me when I'm on vacation. This system includes a consistent time (with my morning coffee right after I wake up) and place (somewhere quiet) as well as a systematic approach to Bible study and prayer.

My systematic approach to Bible study and prayer includes two elements. First, I'm always reading through the Bible in some way, whether chronologically or with another reading plan. This habit keeps me continually focused on the big picture of redemption. Second, I always spend time journaling. Daily prayer journaling keeps me focused since I can't think of something else very easily while I'm writing with pen and paper. I also avoid electronic interruptions during this time because I too easily get distracted. Most of the time, I'm also going through another devotional series or book to go deeper and focus on a specific area I am struggling with or wondering about. These can be electronic studies through an app, or they may be a paper book or on my Kindle.

While I'm not opposed to electronic Bible study for the most part, there is something special that happens when I read an actual Bible. Holding God's word in my hand and interacting with it by writing notes on its pages as I read creates a deeper connection than I've ever experienced electronically. This is why my daily Bible study system doesn't rely on virtual resources. Just like face-to-face relationships with my friends and family are better than virtual ones, so too is my relationship with the Lord.

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.

Blessings,

Virginia Hetrick – virbhtr@gmail.com

## HAVE YOU SEEN THE PAPER GATOR

### IN THE PARKING LOT?

*We earn money when you  
recycle paper in our bin...*

The paper will be shredded and processed into hydro seeding mulch, lawn establishment products, lawn repair products, Fresh News® Cat Litter, dog litter, Fresh News® Small Animal Bedding, Fresh News® Small Animal Litter or recycled at paper mills, cellulose insulation manufacturers or other recycling facilities.

### WHAT CANNOT GO IN THE BIN?

• Plastic • Metal • Trash • Glass • Cardboard

### WHAT CAN GO IN THE BIN?

- 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





# 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*



## PRAYERS NEEDED:

- 1) Pray for the recruiting the SMLC LAMP Team to go to Lac Brochet, Manitoba August 10-20, 2023.
- 2) Pray for the people of Lac Brochet—coming out of a cold dark winter.
- 3) Pray for the new LAMP Team to connect and be able to arrange meeting times to prepare for the trip.
- 4) Pray for all the communications with Lac Brochet to work out the details of our trip in August.

LAMP website - [lampministry.org](http://lampministry.org) a place to learn more.



**Are you are interested in hearing more  
about the summer LAMP trip?**

**Talk to Dana Naumann**

**269 808 7832 or [dana.naumann@gmail.com](mailto:dana.naumann@gmail.com)**



## OUR AFGHAN OUTREACH MINISTRY IS OFFICIAL!

Our Board of Evangelism brought forth a resolution to our Voters' Assembly on February 26 to partner with POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach) and the Michigan District of the LCMS to reach out to refugees from Afghanistan in our community.

A major player in this ministry is an Afghan husband and father named Amanullah (*pronounced "Ah-mon-oo-la"*). He is a devout Christian and desires to become a Lutheran pastor. He will be working with POBLO leadership, with Rev. Vincent Iqbal of St. Michael, and Pastor Naumann in receiving Lutheran catechesis for himself and family, and eventually he will receive theological training to become an ordained LCMS pastor through the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology through Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

Amanullah earned an MBA degree in Pakistan, and is currently working at Pfizer corporation in town (third shift). His wife and seven children, and his widowed sister and her three children (whom Amanullah has adopted), all live in a six bedroom two bath apartment at 1233 Jack Pine Way in Kalamazoo (49006). It is just north of West Michigan Avenue and not far to the east from Alternatives of Kalamazoo. His email address is [amanullahsunshine@gmail.com](mailto:amanullahsunshine@gmail.com) and his phone number is 269-290-9271.

Feel free to write, email, text, or call and welcome them to our community and congregation. Culturally, hospitality is their love language, so they love to extend it and receive it. Amanullah speaks fairly good English so don't hesitate to engage in conversation with him when you have a chance. His oldest son, Sameer, is a freshman at Kalamazoo Central High School, so his English is quite good, too. The adult women are taking ESL (English as a Second Language) classes right now and would welcome a chance to practice with you.

Please pray for them to be able to feel at home here in our community and congregation. Pray that extended family members in our area might join them in worship at St. Michael. Finally, pray that other Afghan refugees who are in Dubai and waiting to come to the USA might be placed here in Kalamazoo county, so that we might be able to incorporate them into our congregation and this new outreach effort. God is doing something special among us and through us. May we join Him in this work and keep on being and making mighty messengers for Christ.



### Transportation Needed!

A big challenge that our Afghan ministry faces right now is transportation. Amanullah has a minivan, but it is under repair and not available for a time. But even when he gets it back, it's not large enough to accommodate the whole family. If someone has a minivan, or larger, who would be willing to go pick them up and bring them to church that would be amazing! Perhaps someone even has an extra large vehicle that they could all ride in (like a 16 passenger van). They have a number of car seats and we have two here at church also. If you can help in anyway, even offering advice for transportation options, please call the church office. Thanks!



**You Could Be the Hands & Feet of Jesus to our JLK/365 Bible Studies!** Men's and women's Bible studies are continuing, and God is at work! If you can to help with meals, rides, or mentoring, please [email us](#).

Preparations for ... **Catalyst Week, July 9-14** ... are underway!  
**OneWorship** is at Bronson Park on Sunday, July 9!  
Mark your calendar and invite your friends!

**Catalyst Week** is our **core annual event** where the whole body has an opportunity to step out together under the banner of Jesus Christ in an intentional and visible way, for His Glory!

**Would you like to help your church get involved at a deeper level?** Talk to Pastor Naumann

**Mark Your 2023 Calendar!!**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WEEK IS**

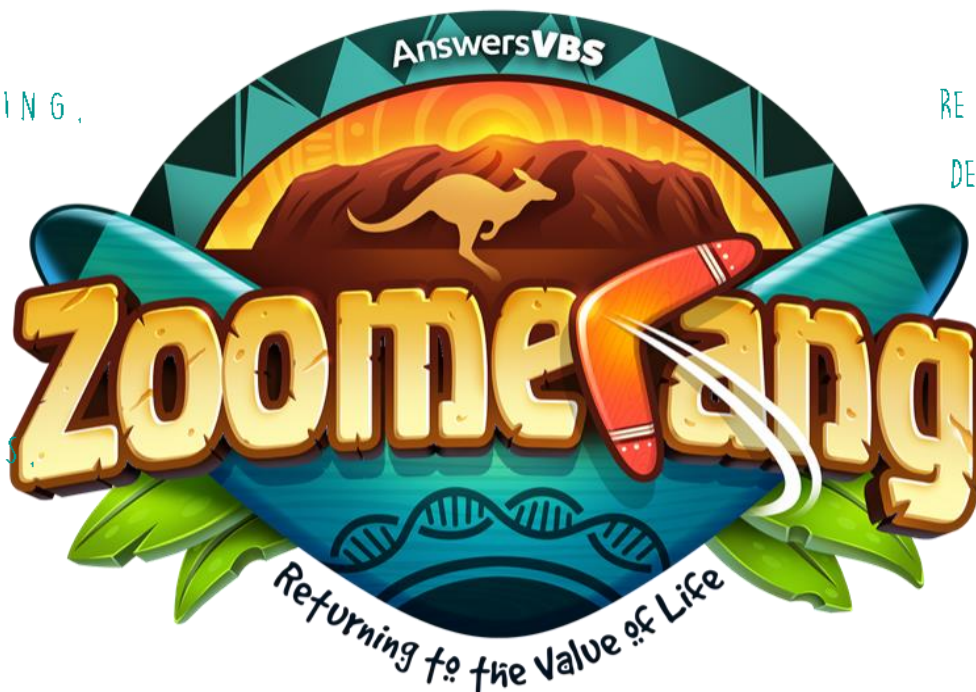
**JULY 23-29**

**REGISTRATION WILL OPEN APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>**

[mightymessengers.org](http://mightymessengers.org)

*Please pray about how you will be serving the Lord during VBS. . .*

STORYTELLING,  
TOUR GUIDE,  
MUSIC,  
MEDIA TEAM,  
HOSPITALITY,  
SCIENCE/CRAFTS,  
NURSERY,  
SETTING UP,  
MISSIONS TEAM,



REGISTRATION,  
DECORATIONS,  
SNACKS,  
SAFETY TEAM,  
GAMES,  
DRAMA TEAM,  
PRAYER TEAM,  
CELEBRATION TEAM,  
PHOTOGRAPHER

ESU Junior and Primary Day 2

I praise you, for I am fearfully  
and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.  
Psalm 139:14



**Many Volunteers Will Be Needed**

**Already know what you want to do?**  
**Talk to Tammy in the Church office!**

ESU Junior and Primary Day 1

So God created man in his own  
image, in the image of God he  
created him; male and female  
he created them.  
Genesis 1:27





*Christ for Kids is planning our Mom to Mom sale again! We haven't had it in a few years due to COVID, and we are excited to be bringing it back.*

## Christ for Kids' 16th Annual

### Mom to Mom Sale

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.

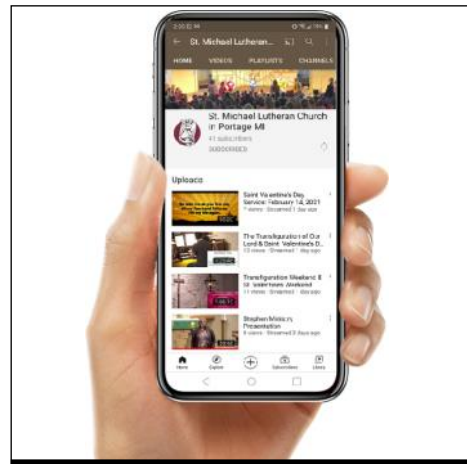
Set-up and special presale for sellers and volunteers will take place on Friday, April 14th from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm. There will be a pre-sale for sellers and volunteers from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Make sure to have bags and money for change.

Leave the advertising to us and have fun shopping and selling your children's toys, clothing and baby gear.

## Save the date and tell your friends!

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!*



## 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

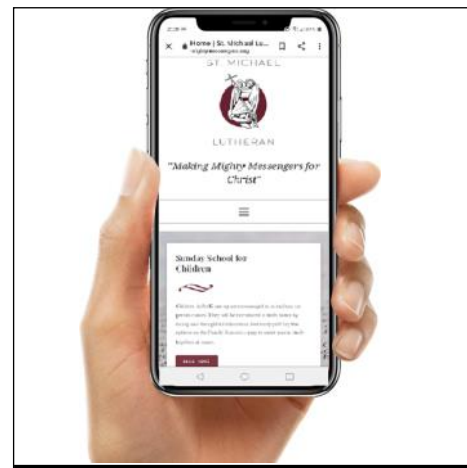
Find devotions, special event announcements and more:



@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI

### mightymessengers.org

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





# 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*

## KEEPING MARRIAGE ALIVE THROUGH

Marriage   
Encounter

It is not too soon to make a commitment to your marriage and each other. Please consider attending one of the following upcoming weekends:

March 10-12, 2003                      Birch Run  
September 28-October 1, 2023      Battle Creek (tentative)  
Register at [www.GodLovesMarriage](http://www.GodLovesMarriage)  
Questions? Contact Mark or Jan Chilcott  
269-615-7870 or 269-998-6147    [mchilcottME@gmail.com](mailto:mchilcottME@gmail.com)

All prior Lutheran Marriage Encounter graduates should consider attending the Veterans Renewal this year from November 3-5, 2023, at The Shack. Make your reservations now at 231-924-6683.

*Lynne & Arlan Wendzel*

## We are beginning the process for a new photo and online membership directory . . . **The success depends on you!**

This will not be one of those traditional photo sittings, where you feel compelled to order and pay for a really nice photo. It will be much more personalized to you and St. Michael, because you will submit your own photo. As you have the opportunity to take a snap of that million-dollar smile or a selfie of the family, please do so and send to:

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



Images will be collected for a period and then the online edition will be available. At that time, you will have access to update your information and photo yourself. If you have any changes to your phone/email/address, or where your children may now reside, we would love for you to share the updates with the Church Office.



As a reminder our golf fundraiser is our main event to raise money for all the outreach JLK does over the year. We continue to trust in God for his provisions to help us have another amazing year of ministry and seeing Jesus's love poured out on Kzoo.

## LENTEN DINNERS

5PM Wednesdays

Thank you to all that came to enjoy a meal on March 1. Your offering will support VBS 2023 programming.

March 8 - Quilters

March 15 - Lay Ministers

March 22 - Stephen Ministers

March 29 - LAMP Team



### DIFFERENT WAYS TO DONATE TO THE MINISTRY AT ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL:

- 1) [mightymessengers.org/donate](https://mightymessengers.org/donate)
- 2) Mail or bring your donation envelopes to the church.
- 3) Fill out this [electronic giving form](#) and bring it into the church office.
- 4) Download the VANCO FAITH App from the Google Play or Apple Store.
- 5) Text to give 269-338-8196 with the amount of your donation.

*"It is more blessed to give than to receive." — Jesus, in Acts 20:35*



**Start a new habit!**  
Join us on Tuesday nights  
at 6:30 PM in the Library

Contact Barbara Schubert  
(563)5808975 [schubertbrs@gmail.com](mailto:schubertbrs@gmail.com)



## YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

8th - High School Studying the Scriptures

9:45-10:45AM Youth Room

Watch your TeamSnap or Signal Apps for notifications, about what is coming up each week on Sunday Evenings! Not connected? Talk to Pastor Maske about getting included.

GET REGISTERED SOON:

### MACKINAC ISLAND – HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GATHERING

June 25 -28

Come to Mackinac Island! This is an EXCELLENT opportunity to join together on MACKINAC ISLAND for fellowship, fun, and a memory you will never forget.

### JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING - FRANKENMUTH

June 2 - June 4

Enough - Galatians 2:20-21

Bavarian Inn Lodge

Contact Pastor Maske ([dmaske@mightymessengers.org](mailto:dmaske@mightymessengers.org)) for all forms and information.



**American  
Red Cross**

**Next Opportunity to  
Donate at St. Michael  
will be March 27  
Noon-6 PM**

**Make Your  
Appointment Today!**

# 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*

## RECENTLY ELECTED

### 2023 Parish Planning Council:

Mark Ruesch, President

Kristi Rudowske, Treasurer

### Directors:

Kristen Shook, Parish Education

Valerian Kwigizile, Evangelism

Angie Heimlich, Small Group Ministry

Michael Grotelueschen, Early Childhood

Ryan Nelson, Properties

Heather Bigelow, Youth/Young Adult Ministry

Lay Ministers: Matt Heintz, Andy Allan, Mel Schroeder, Arlan Wendzel, Zach Button, Dave Johnson, Harold DeFouw, Howard McNees, Dave Drzeweicki

Endowment Fund Officer: Brad Hunter

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## LCMSFoundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

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

Ministry leaders often appreciate unrestricted gifts to their organizations that allow leaders to apply the dollars to the current pressing needs when received. A danger of such unrestricted gifts is that they can become generic in our minds, and we don't imagine what the benefit will be some day, robbing God's intended response of joy from giving ("God loves a cheerful giver"). However, predicting future needs can be tricky.

Three sisters taught Sunday School for all their adult lives. They loved children and appreciated the chance to share Jesus with them. Their estate plans all included gifts to support the Sunday School. But today, that same congregation is planted in a community where only 1.5% of the people are below the age of 18. You can see how difficult it would be for the congregation to use substantial gifts for supporting Sunday School when there are no children.

Gifts can be earmarked for certain ministry projects. Yet it is always a good idea to include language that gives ministry ability to redirect dollars if the planned need no longer exists in the future. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you think about the language that makes the most sense for your favorite ministry.



# 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

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, 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**

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