



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

MAY 2023

Volume 62, Number 5

"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys" (Song of Solomon 2:1)

I knew that each month has a designated gemstone or birthstone. For example, for this month of May it is Emerald with its appropriately deep green color, the color that our lawns have after all the rain (and snow) lately. But did you know that each month is assigned a flower as well? The April showers have surely brought the May flowers, and one of the flowers that is coming up profusely about now (even near the main entrance into our church building) is the Lily of the Valley. Many of you have this prolific plant growing like a weed somewhere in your yard too, I would imagine. By the way, if you ever decide you don't want it in your yard anymore, good luck trying to dig it up! It has an amazingly dense intertwining carpet of roots that give it tenacious staying power.

Could this be the reason that sometimes Jesus is called the Lilly of the Valley? In 1881, Charles Fry wrote a well known hymn of praise to Jesus, singing: *"He's the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star, He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul."* But actually, the Lily of the Valley language comes from the Bible: Song of Solomon 2:1 - *"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys."* Song of Solomon is a beautifully poetic and rather erotic book in the Old Testament that not only celebrates God's design for marital love but is also an allegory about Jesus and His relationship to His bride, the Church. One might perhaps even consider Song of Solomon 2:1 as one of Jesus' "I Am" statements as in John's Gospel He says, *"I am the Good Shepherd"* (John 10:11), or *"I am the Vine"* (John 15:5). But according to the 1,300 page CPH commentary on Song of Solomon by Rev. Dr. Christopher Mitchell, it is probably not the groom speaking in 2:1 but the bride, especially since the feminine form of the word "lily" is used rather than masculine (likewise for the other flower in 2:1 traditionally translated as a "Rose of Sharon").



Speaking of the "Rose of Sharon," that too is title given to Jesus in a number of old hymns. In his commentary, Mitchell points out that while the translation of "rose" is centuries old (not only in the King James Version but even in Luther) it is not a very good translation and he prefers "asphodel." Unlike "rose," "asphodel" is hardly a name anyone is ever likely to give to their daughter, but he likes the fact that it is not a specific floral species name but rather the name of a genus in the lily family, and so it fits with the Hebrew parallelism.



Even if "Rose of Sharon" is not the best translation, I prefer the sound of it and I especially appreciate the garden plant by the same name that thrives right here in Michigan. As you can see in the photo on the cover of this newsletter, the flower comes in various colors and resembles quite a bit the tropical hibiscus flower that I grew up enjoying in Florida (in fact both plants come from the same family). There are many things I love about the Rose of Sharon, and they happen to remind me of some of the things that I love about Jesus. For one thing, they are late bloomers that can appear quite dead in the spring even as Jesus was very dead in the tomb after His crucifixion and burial. But just as impatient doubters are about ready to give up on the Rose of Sharon, it resurrects and comes to life in the summer, flowering out spectacularly and extensively, and keeps right on blooming well into the fall and long after other flowers have stopped.

Furthermore, the Rose of Sharon wonderfully reproduces itself with little shoots near its base that have their own root system and can be easily transplanted. In fact, if I can just keep the deer from eating them, I'm eventually going to have a spectacular hedge of Rose of Sharon plants at the end of our backyard that were entirely a "free gift" from the mother plant. Like the Rose of Sharon, so also Jesus reproduces Himself in His followers and enables us to spread out and bloom wherever we are planted. By His enabling power, we can extend the "aroma of Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:15) and take His saving Gospel into places where He Himself never traveled during His 33 years of earthly ministry. We can propagate His presence into the very places in this world where He is most needed, bringing His love, hope, and joy to people who are dying and desperate for His risen life. So stop and smell the roses, but while you're at it, also remember to share Jesus.



Karl Mueller Memorial Open

“MIGHTY ANGELS”

GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023

All Proceeds Support The St. Michael Lutheran School Tuition-Assistance Fund

FOUR-PERSON SCRAMBLE

MEN AND/OR WOMEN

9:00 AM SHOTGUN START

\$100 per person

Can't golf?

THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR YOU TO STILL BE INVOLVED AND SUPPORTIVE! JOIN US FOR THE LUNCHEON, DONATE A PRIZE OR BECOME A SPONSOR!

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration begins**
- 8-9:00 a.m. Driving Range Warm-Up
- 2:00 p.m. **Awards and Prizes, Luncheon** (with cash bar)



• **EVENT PRIZES**

- Longest Drive (Men/Women)
- Closest to Pin (Men or Women)
- Putting Contest (3 tries for \$5)
- Mulligans for Sale (\$5 each)



Pine View Golf Club

52065 Pulver Road, Three Rivers, MI

NEW LOCATION!! Experience Michigan golf at its finest! Join us for a beautiful round featuring challenging holes and picturesque scenery. The Hemlock Course is lined with trees and gently rolling, plays up to 6409 yards, par 72 with a slope of 121.

REGISTER ONLINE AT: [MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG/GOLF-OUTING/](https://mightymessengers.org/golf-outing/)

\$1,000 EAGLE SPONSOR:

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

\$500 BIRDIE SPONSOR:

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

\$250 CART SPONSOR:

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

\$125 HOLE SPONSOR:

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

\$100 GOLFER SPONSOR:

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



REGISTER TODAY!

To Reserve Your Spot

DEADLINE: AUGUST 15, 2023

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

List Additional Team Members Below (even if they are submitting their own registration fees):

_____ Contact: _____

_____ Contact: _____

_____ Contact: _____



Questions?

Contact A Golf Committee Member:

Pat Hackett

Dan Smodic

Dave Johnson

Harold DeFouw

Arlan Wendzel

Greg Johnson

Jay Koski

Pastor Naumann

naumann@mightymessengers.org



_____	\$ 1,000	Eagle Sponsor
_____	\$ 500	Birdie Sponsor
_____	\$ 100	Player (with lunch)
_____	\$ 25	Luncheon only
_____	\$ 250	Cart Sponsorship
_____	\$ 125	Hole Sponsorship
_____	\$ 100	Sponsor Golfer
_____	Total Due	



MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023

All Proceeds Support The St. Michael Lutheran School
Tuition-Assistance Fund

Make check payable to:

St. Michael Lutheran School

Pay online at:

mightymessengers.org

Church Phone: 269-327-7832 School Phone: 269-327-0512

Tax ID - #38 - 6176071



REGISTER ONLINE AT: MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG/GOLF-OUTING/

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.

We try to send something mid-day on Fridays and when special services and events are happening.

Office Contacts:

Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889



Sunday, May 14, 2023
Morning Song Service at 11:00 AM

Oral exam will be held Wednesday, May 10
at 6:00 pm The congregation is invited.

A reception to follow for students.

Please keep these students and their family in your prayers:

Ruth Elizabeth Heacox
Ella Macyn Holdsworth
Violet Elizabeth Hunter
Sadie Rose Kamphuis
Ellie Renee Luma

Andrew John Olson
Johnathan Joseph Shook
Joshua Ryan Smith
Madison Nicole Smith
Aidan Joseph Stolsky

WORSHIP

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

We value worship, as we gather around God's Word and Sacraments, that is meaningful and uplifting, including clear, relevant preaching. We appreciate both traditional liturgy and hymns as well as contemporary music and desire variety and quality in all our worship services so that we might have a meaningful experience of praising and glorifying God with the best that we have.

Colossians 3:16-17

LISTEN TO JESUS

Can you still remember your parents' voices? I got lost in the mall as a kindergartner, and I will never forget the feeling of panic when I looked for my mom... and couldn't see her. I stayed in place, waiting for someone to help me, and then I heard my mom's voice. Everything was okay; I could hear my mom, even before I could see her.

Jesus' voice is our life and salvation. He speaks forgiveness to all sinners, and to you and me. Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life...", "I am the light of the world...", "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

But how can we be sure that we are hearing Jesus' voice? After all, none of us have physically heard Jesus speak to us, right? As a matter of fact, you *have* heard Jesus speak to you! No, not in a vision, not in a dream, but purely and clearly through His written word. **When you read the Bible or hear it read, you are receiving the very Word of God Himself.** God promises you that you are hearing His Word that will never fail and will always be true!

We have the Word of God available to us TODAY. On your phone, in your car, in your home, before you fall asleep... you and I have the very Word of God available to us. Read God's Word! Soak it up and let God speak to you again and again through the Bible. Jesus loves you today, and He wants to speak to you directly through His written Word in Scripture.

God bless you as we continue to grow in faith through the reading and hearing of His holy and precious word.

Pastor Maske



-EVERYONE COUNTS!



Pew Cards and Electronic "touch-free" method for registering your In-Person attendance at Worship Services (You may want to download a QR Reader app to your smartphone to post information. Contact office if you need help.) This also is a way to record a prayer request, or let us know you are doing well.

For those watching online: Please continue to comment and interact with friends, but also go to the "see more..." to download your worship format and click the link that allows you to complete the attendance form, letting us know you were a viewer.

May 7, 2023 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

PSALM 146; 1 PETER 2:1-10; JOHN 14:1-14

"BOX CHECKED OR BAKED IN?" - SERMON TEXT: JOHN 14:13-14

- REV. DR. THOMAS ALHERSMEYER

Jesus promises to answer "Whatever you ask," commanding us to "ask me anything" ... with one condition! He wants requests to be made "in Jesus' name." This condition, far from limiting us, opens amazing possibilities for faith, love, hope, and life!



May 14, 2023 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

PSALM 66:16-20; 1 PETER 3:13-17; JOHN 14:15-23

"TRULY LOVING JESUS" - SERMON TEXT: JOHN 14:23

- REV. DR. WALTER MAIER III

In John 14:23 Jesus speaks about loving him. What does he really mean when he talks about such love? Jesus also tells us that there is a wonderful blessing associated with our truly loving him.



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

May 21, 2023 - The Ascension of Our Lord Observed

PSALM 47; ACTS 1:1-11; LUKE 24:44-53

"WITNESSING WHILE WE WAIT" - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 24:52-53

- REV. THOMAS EGGOLD

For those who are in Christ Jesus, waiting does not mean fear. And waiting does not mean worry. In our Baptism, we have been given the power of the Holy Spirit, and the purpose of that power is that we may believe the promise of life that will come with Christ's return, and that we may witness while we wait.

May 28, 2023 - The Day of Pentecost

PSALM 25:1-15; ACTS 2:1-21; JOHN 7:37-39

"THE HOLY SPIRIT" - SERMON TEXT: JOHN 7:37-39

- REV. SHAYNE JONKER

Today is Pentecost, the day the Church celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as Jesus breathes on His Church from the right hand of God and gives His Church breath and life to proclaim the Good News of His saving death and resurrection. Thus it is a day full of grace and gladness, a day of promises fulfilled.

We pray for Homebound

friends: Sally Beck, Caroline Barkow, Shirley Cosgrove, Ginny Evans, Dorothy Ferguson, Audrey Glover, Maxine June, Flo Kangas*, Phyllis Kurlowicz, Carol 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

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." — Deuteronomy 6:4-7

This Scripture paints a beautiful picture for the family and of God's heart for discipleship at home. The family is God's original small group.

It's easy to let the busyness of life overpower us. It can be nearly impossible to find time to thank God for sending His Son, and often even harder to pass the faith in a loving God on to our families. May we at St. Michael, strive to be intentional about empowering parents, homes, marriages, leaders, and churches to live out the story of Deuteronomy 6.



HELP THE KIDS SEE JESUS!!

Looking for...

- Summer Sunday School Volunteers
- Vacation Bible School Volunteers
- Volunteers for Children's Messages

Contact Church Office at 269-327-7832

Flexible scheduling. Can earn service hours. Training Available. A Background Check is required.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

JULY 24-28

+++

9AM-NOON

With a family celebration on the evening of July 29th



**LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS
and Tour Guides**

WILL BE NEEDED!!

Please consider your schedule
and get registered early.

**Tour Groups will be based
on grade levels this year.**

mightymessengers.org/vbs

Dana's Prayer and Devotion Life

Thank you Virginia for asking me to write about what I do in my devotional/prayer time, I appreciate the opportunity to reflect on it and put it into words. For one thing, my devotional time is forever evolving because there is not a right or wrong way to spend time with our loving Father. For me the evolution of my prayer and devotional life began with a very simple youth journal that I was given as a confirmation gift. It had a short devotion, lots of pictures, and a few blank lines for the reader to share a prayer to God. That was the beginning of my "Dear God..." letters. A couple of years later I did start a daily reading of the Bible commitment, which eventually lead me to read through the Bible in a year. It also became my first experience with opening the Bible to my daily reading and seeing the answer to my anxiety when I was feeling fearful and distressed.

I am convinced the daily commitment to reading God's word gives Him opportunities to speak to the needs we have in a very profound and direct way. This has been my experience over and over again. From my teen years and into my early twenties, Bible reading became a regular routine. However somewhere in my mid-twenties, I lost the fervency I had before and drifted away from the routine. It was also around this time that we began having children. But then in my mid-30's I went to a women's retreat and it stirred up in me the desire again and gave me a plan to restart my daily Bible reading, which also incorporated the daily journal of a letter to God. The speaker encouraged us to select an accountability partner at the retreat, and we were to ask each other periodically through the week, "Did you have your time with God today?" It was just what I needed to begin anew my daily Bible reading and my "Dear God" prayer letter. Also by writing down the date in my God letter journal, it kept me accountable and I knew if I missed a few days or longer.

Since then, now probably at least three decades later, my time with the Lord is so precious to me I don't want to miss even one, and those letters of sharing my heart with God have also been

opportunities to see His response in my reading for each day. As I said this has evolved over time and I am always open to exploring new ways to read His word and to incorporate other resources, as well.

So my current system is this:

I begin the prayer-Letter with thanks and praise to God for who He is and how He led me through the previous day, and then I follow it with asking for some specific guidance for today and for others in my life.

For my Bible reading plan, I initially began with Genesis 1:1- 10 and Matthew 1:1-10. I read those same verses for three days in a row and specifically asked God to reveal to me insights for my daily life from these verses. After the three days, the next day I took the next 10 verses in the Old and New Testament and did the same with those. Following this pattern, I am currently reading Genesis 46:28 - 46:3 and Mark 6:31 - 40. I also use those same prayer prompts from Scripture to pray for St. Michael's leaders and for my family. Along with this, I use a Sarah Young devotional "Jesus Lives" which my Step-Father gave me as another way to hear from the Lord for the day. Then most recently I have added one more thing - my daughter-in-law gave me a "Prayer Journal" Book which gives a space to record a weekly record of Thanks, Concerns and Prayer Requests, as well as another place to write prayer request/answers. This format is new to me, so I enjoy using it to expand my prayer life too.

It is important to me to do this first thing in the morning with my cup of coffee as the start to my day. This precious time with the Lord lasts about a half an hour, but I don't look at the clock, rather I just trust the time into God's hands.

Then my husband and I share our breakfast and a devotion together as well, but that is for another article. If you have not started spending regular time with God you truly don't know what you are missing. He loves you so much and it gives God so many more opportunities to share with you how special you are and how much He is interested in your day to day life. You will never regret it.

Dana Naumann

It is so comforting to each of us that find that special time every day to spend with God. 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. God Bless!! Virginia Hetrick - virbhtr@gmail.com

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

INTRODUCING THE 2023 ST. MICHAEL LAMP TEAM

This year the team includes: Pastor & Dana Naumann, John and Ailene Buchtrup, Khrist Bryer (all of whom have gone multiple times to Lac Brochet); plus Howard and Brandon McNees, and Jim Bess (all of whom are going for their first time to Lac Brochet).

The team will leave on August 10 and return on August 20. This year the travel will include airplane flights, as well as car travel. The costs for the trip have increased dramatically, so we continue to seek financial assistance for the trip costs. We are so thankful for those who continue to keep Lac Brochet and our LAMP team in their prayers and also contribute toward the costs of the trip.



Prayer Requests:

- 1) God's Healing and Comfort to all of those who are dealing with loss of a loved one to suicide and alcohol abuse, as well as other deaths. Lac Brochet has been hit so hard by these losses.
- 2) God's Guidance as the team prepares the curriculum for the VBS and the teen and adult groups, as well as preparing the team to serve together for His Glory.



SUNDAY MORNINGS

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

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Activities Vary 5:00-7:00 PM

RISEN AND SERVING!

Christ is risen indeed! And Christ is on the move. When Jesus rose from the dead, He didn't just kick back and take it easy. Jesus rose from the dead and got to work! He appeared to His disciples, and continued to teach them about the Kingdom of God. Only now He did it in the context of His death and resurrection. What an impact that must have made on the early church!

Our Youth and families have the *huge* advantage of knowing the risen Christ, and seeing how that glorious truth affects *everything*. We don't "have to go to church", we have the incredible opportunity to encounter Jesus in His Word, and in His own body and blood. It's not "just youth group", it's a chance to gather as Jesus' adopted brothers and sisters in learning and fellowship.

And when we have the opportunity to serve, we are privileged and honored to do so. This past Wednesday our youth and parents had the chance to serve alongside the fine folks at Taste of Heaven popcorn shop. We not only had fun bagging popcorn, sealing bags, and storing, we also learned what great things God continues to do through His people.

Please continue to pray for our youth and families, especially our confirmands who will soon confess their faith in the Triune God (May 14 at the 11 am service). God has blessed our youth and families with chances to learn, laugh, and serve... and they continue to be a blessing to God's people at St. Michael as well.



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



St. Michael Lutheran School is excited to offer summer enrichment opportunities designed to teach new skills as well as provide fun learning experiences. These affordable classes will help keep minds sharp and active, and provide a head start for the coming school year. Please consider signing your child up for one or more of these opportunities. Students who do not attend St. Michael are welcome to participate.



Basketball Camp (Coach Jim Horn – KVCC Basketball Coach)

All boys and girls entering grades 1-8 in the fall are welcome to sign up for our annual community basketball camp. This camp, which meets on site, runs from Monday, August 7 through Thursday, August 10. Times are 9:00 am – 3:00pm. Students are to bring a sack lunch, basketball shoes, proper clothing, and a ball with name on it each day. Concessions will be available. Cost is \$100 per child for full days and \$50 per child half days. Registration forms are in the school office.

Drama Day with Mrs. Taylor at St. Michael Lutheran School

Music teacher Mrs. Taylor will be hosting a special Drama Day this summer! Students going into grades 2-6 will work on their acting skills through playing games, building confidence in front of an audience, and having fun together. You may sign up for the Wednesday, July 19 event which be held from 12:30 pm-4:00 pm in the school music room. Cost is \$25 per student. Space is limited, so please email Mrs. Taylor (melissa.taylor@mail.com) to reserve your spot.



Junior Robotics Camp (Ages 6-8)

This is the perfect camp to get young students interested in STEM. This engaging camp is designed to give young students the chance to explore robotics and coding using Lego Wedo 2.0 and Mochi. Class will meet Monday-Friday June 26-30 from 9:00 am – 12 noon. Minimum of 6 students required. Cost is \$165 per student. Sign up in the school office. Checks made payable to SMLS. (Additional Flyer available)



Robotics I Camp (Ages 9-12)

This engaging hands-on camp is designed to help students understand the fundamentals of robotics/coding and learn about real world applications using Lego SPIKE Prime. Class meets Monday-Friday beginning June 26-30 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Minimum of 6 students required. Cost is \$175 per student. Sign up in school office. Checks made payable to SMLS. (Additional Flyer available)

Music Enrichment (PreK-2nd; 3rd-5th; 6th-8th)

SMLS Band teacher Stacy Bower is offering summer music enrichment for students in PreK-8th grade. Students will learn the different elements of music through age appropriate activities including singing, dancing, and musical games. Mrs. Bower will also be available for private music lessons beginning the week of June 12. Please see summer music flyer for the many and varied musical offerings and contact Mrs. Bower to reserve a spot for your child today! (Sbower@portageps.org)



DOJO of the Risen Son Martial Arts Instruction

Certified Black Belt instructors provide Martial Arts instruction taught with Biblical application each Tuesday evening in the St. Michael Lutheran School gym. This class is for boys and girls ages 7 years and up from 6:00 – 7:15 pm. Summer Special is \$99 for three months (regularly \$120) with additional charges for required uniform. To sign up, ask questions, or learn more about summer specials, please contact Barry Bond at 269-808-6484.

"CONCERT ON THE PLAYGROUND"

The music department at SMLS is very excited to present Thursday, May 11 at 6:30pm on the soccer field and playground area

Preschool students in Lonc/ Keinath's class,
Young 5 students in Mohler's class.
Kindergarten through 4th grade music students. Beginning and Concert Band students.

What to bring: Your own camping/ lawn chairs for each member of your family, including your students who will be performing. Also, if temps look to be a little chilly, you may want to bring blankets to cozy up under.
If the weather looks bad, we will move to May 18.

The PTL is planning to provide a "Grab & Go" snack. Thank you, PTL!!



Your family, here at St. Michael, would love to recognize your senior student upon their graduation this year. We would like to put their picture and a little summary in the newsletter for June, as well as prepare a slide that will be shared in worship times.

Please send to the Church Office:

(tsonger@mightmessengers.org) a picture of your Senior student, the name of the high school graduating from, and future college or plans after high school by May 31.

For your calendars, we are planning on a graduation celebration service on June 11, at the early worship service. We hope your student will be joining us! They are asked to wear their school cap and gown and process in with Pastors. Sitting in the same area (*north side front pews*) that they would have on their confirmation day. After the service, there will be a reception in the gym in honor of the seniors, celebrating their hard work.

If your graduate will be living or going to school out of the area, please let us know, so that we can add them to our college ministry list!



Property Cleanup Day
Saturday, May 20

Grab some of your yard tools and come join us!

There will be various projects that could use a number of hands to complete.



Schram's Greenhouse

Gift Certificates

Purchase to enhance your garden, or gift to others!

On Sale Now: \$18⁰⁰ each

Youth Ministry receives \$6 off each sale.

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 Lutheran Marriage Encounter

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

September 29-October 1, 2023 Best Western Plus, Kalamazoo
Cost for the weekend is \$275 per couple
Registration will be available at www.GodLovesMarriage very soon.

Questions: contact Mark or Jan Chilcott 269-615-7870 or 269-998-6147 mchilcottME@gmail.com

All encountered couples and their families are invited to a **Marriage Encounter Family Cookout** to be held at Brian and Donna Zelner's home on Saturday, June 3rd from 3-6:00 pm. Come join us for a fun filled day with games, food and great fellowship. Put it on your calendar now and email Brian and Donna at dwzsearch@gmail.com, to let them know you will attend. Further details will be forthcoming.

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



Celebrate being a child of God!

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

Craft a special gift for yourself!

Mothers, Daughters Sisters & Friends...

Be sure to register at mightymessengers.org



SEEKING GOLFERS & SPONSORS
FOR THE 9TH ANNUAL

JESUS LOVES KZOO GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023

LYNX GOLF CLUB

900 LINCOLN RD, OTSEGO, MI 49078

All Proceeds Support Jesus Loves Kzoo
Sponsor & Registration Info on Back

**JESUS
LOVES KZOO**



Jesusloveskzoo.org/golf-fundraiser/

2023 EVENT LOCATION:



LYNX GC

900 Lincoln Rd
Otsego, MI
49078

Questions & Info:

Contact Mark Kieser / 269-217-6372
mkieser@kieser-associates.com

What you need to know!

- **Monday, June 5, 9 a.m. shotgun start**
- 18-hole, four-person scramble format, with carts
- 8:00 a.m. – Light breakfast and registration begins
- 8:00-9:00 a.m. – Free Driving Range Warm-Up
- 9:00 a.m. – Prayer followed by shotgun start
- Longest Drive/Closest to Pin/Putting Contests
- Hole-in-One Prizes
- Free luncheon
- Winning prizes, raffle items
- Event and hole sponsorships available
- TO SIGN-UP: Fill out/mail form below or at www.jesusloveskzoo.org/golf-fundraiser/
- **ALL Proceeds Go To Jesus Loves Kzoo**

Registration & Sponsorship Info

Participation Levels	Cost
4-Person Team	\$350
Individual	\$100
Sponsorship Options	
Diamond Sponsors – includes large sign, three –4-person teams, three Tee Sponsorships, free putting contest for teams, free hole-in-one contest for teams, 24 additional raffle tickets, luncheon recognition.	\$5000
Platinum Sponsors - includes sign, two 4-Person teams, two Tee Sponsorships, free putting contest for teams, free hole-in-one contest for teams, 18 additional raffle tickets, luncheon recognition.	\$2800
Gold Sponsors – includes one 4-Person team, Tee Sponsorship, free putting contest for teams, free hold-in-one contest for teams, 12 additional raffle tickets, luncheon recognition.	\$1200
Silver Sponsors – Includes one 4-Person team, Tee Sponsorship, free putting contest for team; 8 additional raffle tickets, luncheon recognition.	\$600
Bronze Sponsor – includes one 4-Person team and Tee Sponsorship.	\$400
Tee Sponsor – Includes Tee sign.	\$100

Register Online at Jesusloveskzoo.org/golf-fundraiser/

OR – Return Form & Mail Payments To:

Jesus Loves Kzoo / 2023 Golf Outing, 536 E. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Team Name/Contact: _____

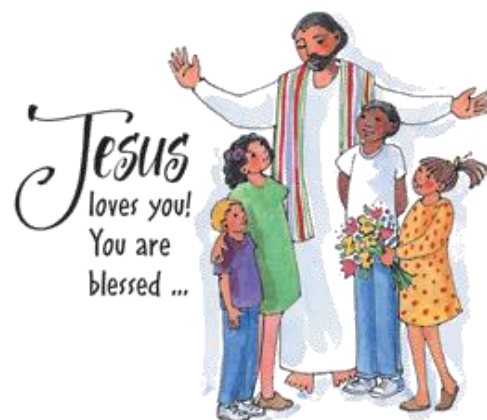
Contact Phone Number & Email: _____

Player's Names: _____

Participation Level: _____



*PTL sponsored
a BINGO Night
that was fun
for all ages!!*



SHEPHERD GROUPS

Lay Minister	Family Names Start with	Family Names & include
Zachary Button 810-844-6870	A	Boelman
Harold DeFouw 269-569-6869	Bohren	Chenevare
Dan Bryer 269-323-7416	Chilcott	D
Mel Schroeder 734-646-9652	E	Franzen
Dave Drzewiecki 616-560-2175	Frommann	G
Dave Johnson 269-599-2195	H	June
Ryan Bigelow 269-838-6062	Jung	Lapekas
Mark Kahle 402-730-1914	Lausman	McNees
Howard McNees 269-720-3857	Messing	Nelson
Jeff Burnett 269-491-3700	Nieto	P
Andy Allan 269-370-7052	Q	Shook
Greg Wedel 312-961-4636	Shuler	Stolsky
Matt Heintz 269-290-8507	Sullivan	T
Arian Wendzel 269-816-5632	U	Z

AUGUST 24, 2023 – FIELD RENAMING IN HONOR OF COACH BOB KNIGHT!

A date has been set to recognize and honor Coach Knight with the renaming of McCamley Field to McCamley ***Knight*** Field.

The ceremony and festivities will take place on **THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023** prior to the kickoff of the first home game of the season.

The Mustangs will battle East Lansing, and hopefully we kick off a new era of Mustang Football under the permanent, watchful eye of Coach Knight.

Thank you to everyone that reached out in support of this effort, shared their personal stories of Coach Knight, and helped get this endeavor done.

Details of the event are still to be ironed out, but expect a record setting crowd filled with proud alumni, that are there to celebrate coach and everything Mustang Football.

August 24 will truly be a great day to be a Mustang. Stay tuned for more details, and make it a great day!

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*

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE OFFERS ESTATE & GIFT PLANNING WORKSHOP MAY 7

The St. Michael Endowment Committee is pleased and excited to offer an **Estate and Planned Giving Workshop** for all members during the Adult Learning Hour between services (9:45-10:45) on Sunday May 7. The workshop will be presented by our LCMS/CEF Gift Planning Counselor, Julie Burgess. Julie joined the LCMS Foundation as a Gift Planning Counselor in April 2020. She formerly worked in Lutheran churches and schools as a Director of Family Life and teacher. Julie works to educate and empower individual Christians about how they can distribute God's blessings to the people they love and to the ministries they care about once the Lord calls them home. In addition, Julie also works with congregations to establish and strengthen endowment funds as well as other long-term ministry objectives. Her warm and welcoming approach to gift planning is not only comforting, but helps congregational leaders feel confident and prepared that they will be the best faithful stewards of the gifts that their beloved constituents provide.

You may be asking yourself, why do I need an estate plan or why should I change my existing plan? Even as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we also know that His victory is so sweet because it gives eternal life even as our present lives here on earth are finite. An estate and gift plan that designs how God's gifts will be distributed to the family you love and the ministries you care about, begins with a face-to-face confrontation with end-of-life issues. Yet, end of life is not really accurate for a child of God. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and life...whoever lives and believes in me will by no means die, forever.” During the workshop, Julie will describe how she helps individual members through the Lifetime Plan for Giving process. This four-step process gives you time to gather information and look at options for how God wants you to use your financial blessings to gift both your family and the ministries you care about long after He has called you home. She will walk you through the process, pray with you and discuss your stewardship goals so that you can create a plan that gives you peace of mind knowing that your wishes are fulfilled. Julie's services are free of charge to all LCMS Michigan District churches and their members.

Even if you're uncertain about the need for an estate plan or already have an existing plan, we encourage you to come on May 7 and listen to what Julie has to say about the services she offers.

Dave Johnson

Endowment Committee Member and CEF Representative



Church Extension Fund

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/>

MARCH FINANCIALS

5 Months

11/1/2022-3/31/2023

Church Revenue	\$ 353,685
School Revenue	\$ <u>510,519</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 864,204
Total Expenses	\$ <u>831,566</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 32,638
Expense Budget	\$ 835,948
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 28,256
Working Cash Balance	\$ 61,807
Mortgage Balance	\$ 695,433

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$573,250
Building Contingency	\$ 29,427
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 14,180
Sunday School	\$ 1,628
Youth Donations	\$ 17,099
Youth Accounts	\$ 5,936
Good Samaritan	\$ 1,789
Memorials	\$ 7,897
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 7,595
Quilting	\$ 1,747
POBLO South Asian Ministry	\$ 822
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 585
School Improvements	\$ 64,620
Tuition Assistance	\$ 59,796
School Music	\$ 476
Flower Fund	\$ 6,152
CFK Mission Expansion	\$ 90,000
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 3,160
Faith Budget	\$ 371

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Feb. '23 Avg.	293
March '23 Avg.	420
April '23 Avg.	463

Annual Avg. 2021	265
Annual Avg. 2022	295
Annual Avg. 2023	330

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

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Arlene Groll, Mark & Jan Chilcott

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Kristen Shook, Director
Deb Hackett, Assistant Director

ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Jesse Hogue

CRADLE ROLL

Peggy Makowski

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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