

THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

JUNE 2023

Volume 62, Number 6



“I’m Gonna Fly”

Not surprisingly, the life cycle of a butterfly has often been used as an illustration of death and resurrection. As you know, a butterfly starts out as a caterpillar, and caterpillars and people have a bit in common. Some caterpillars are pretty cute and fuzzy, while others are rather ugly and spiky, but they are all distinctively unique creatures, they all love to eat, and they all have a time in their lives in which they must enter into the tomb-like condition of a chrysalis. While the caterpillar may appear to be dead within the chrysalis, the day comes in which it emerges from it in a new and better condition than ever before. It comes out with magnificent wings by which it can fly through the air.

If you or I were to reduce ourselves to being a caterpillar, it would just be one creature (albeit the crowning glory of God’s creation) becoming another creature. But in the case of Jesus, He is the eternal Son of God (the Second Person of the Trinity) and so for Him to take on human flesh and to become one just like us was extremely and remarkably humbling. And yet this is exactly what He did. He became a creature like us, a caterpillar like us, if you will. He was a perfect caterpillar to be sure, but a corruptible one nonetheless for His incarnation as a man was for the express purpose not only of living a perfect human life, but also so that He might be able to suffer and die a human death as the perfect sacrifice for our sin, so that it might be completely atoned for.

When our dead Savior was taken down from the cross He was placed into a tomb as the Christ in a chrysalis, but on the third day He arose victorious with a new and glorified body that was capable of walking through locked doors and ultimately flying up into heaven on Ascension Day. As truly remarkable as this transformation is, it is not unique to Jesus’ for He has promised: *“because I live, you also shall live”* (John 14:19). As believers in Jesus as our Savior from sin and death, we acknowledge Him as *“the Resurrection and the Life”* (John 11:25) and we rest assured that even after we die we shall live. Now that Jesus has bodily risen and ascended, we can with hope and joy anticipate His return to earth in the same manner in which He left (Acts 1:11), for *“we await a Savior...*

who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to Himself” (Philippians 3:20-21).

At the end of last month we entered into the season of Pentecost, the time in which the Holy Spirit was poured out on all flesh in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and, as Jesus put it, *“the promise of My Father”* (Luke 24:49). Jesus also said that with the Holy Spirit comes *“power from on high”* (Luke 24:49), the power to believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior (1 Corinthians 12:3), the power to grasp Spiritual things from the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 2:14), and the power to be Christ’s witnesses in the world (Acts 1:8). On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit did not fly down on the Church like a dove, but He did do that upon Jesus at His baptism. And the Holy Spirit in us enable us to take wing, as it were, and to soar over circumstances and to accomplish the mission that Jesus has given us to make disciples of all nations. It reminds me of a “Mercy Me” song: *“I’m gonna run; no, I’m gonna fly! I’m gonna know what it means to live and not just be alive. The world’s gonna hear ‘cause I’m gonna shout; and I will be dancing when circumstances drown the music out. Say I won’t!”*

Because of Jesus’ victorious death, resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of the throne of the Father, the day will come when even after we die and enter into the chrysalis of our grave we too will arise, and we too will fly up and *“meet the Lord in the air”* (1 Thessalonians 4:17). But in the meantime, let’s not hesitate even now to spread our wings and enter into all the challenges of life in this world with boldness and confidence in Christ. This summer, let’s enjoy whatever flights of fancy the Lord gives to us. And while we’re at it, let’s soar into Michigan District youth gatherings, into Jesus Loves Kzoo (July 9-14), into our Vacation Bible School (July 24-28), into a Synodical Convention (July 28-August 3) and fly all the way to Lac Brochet (August 10-20). Have a great flight!



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



2023 WALK FOR LIFE
SATURDAY, JUNE 17
8:30am - 11:30am
RADIANT CHURCH, PORTAGE

REGISTER AND DETAILS

www.alternativescc.org/kzoowalk

We will walk rain or shine, so bring your umbrella! However, if you prefer, you may walk on your own at your earliest convenience and drop off any physical donations and pledge forms at the office. If you pre-registered, you may pick up your T-shirt at the office as well!



*To all the people
that made the
Property Clean Up Day
a great success!*

WORSHIP

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

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

Colossians 3:16-17

³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ~Acts 2:36-40

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The Jews gathered for Pentecost were "cut to the heart" when the Holy Spirit, through Peter, told them that they had killed the Messiah. The long-awaited Savior of His people had been killed by His own. "**What shall we do?!**" they cried out.

Notice what Peter does NOT say: Peter doesn't tell them to try harder, or to feel worse... Peter tell them the Gospel: repent and be baptized. **But it gets even better!** When Peter finishes his exhortation, he says, "BE SAVED from this crooked generation."

My students know that I love grammar. Grammar rocks! Our English translations regularly mistranslate the Greek σώθητε as "save yourself", but this is a poor translation. It is a passive verb; it ought to read "be saved"... and that is exactly how it all happens. As our catechism teaches us from Scripture, "*I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.*" ... the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God alone accomplishes this awesome miracle.

Friends, today, remember that you are saved by the grace of God and nothing else. This is Gospel! You and I sin daily, often and creatively... and yet Jesus loves you too much to leave you to your own devices. He died for all your sins, and loves you every day the same.

In Christ our love,

Pastor Maske



June 4, 2023 – The Holy Trinity

PSALM 8; ACTS 2:14A, 22-36; MATTHEW 28:16-20

“THE BLESSED TRINITY” – SERMON TEXT: MATTHEW 28:16-20

REV. PAUL SHOEMAKER

God has chosen to reveal Himself in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. In doing so He shares with us His uniqueness as our God. Today we celebrate the Blessed Trinity.



June 11, 2023 – Second Sunday After Pentecost

PSALM 119:65-72; HOSEA 5:15-6:6; MATTHEW 9:9-13

“LIVE BEFORE GOD” – SERMON TEXT: HOSEA 5:15-6:6

REV. WILLIAM MUELLER

What does it mean to live before God? How is this possible? What about when things are going horribly wrong? Hosea lifts up two great points about this life with the one true God: a third day resurrection and the need for more than just lip service.



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

June 18, 2023 – Third Sunday After Pentecost

PSALM 100; EXODUS 19:2-8; MATTHEW 10:1-5A, 16-20

“HERE AM I – SEND ME!” – SERMON TEXT: MATTHEW 10:1A, 2A

REV. DR. THOMAS AHLERSMEYER

Jesus calls His original twelve to be His disciples and sends them out to be His apostles. He calls us to be His followers and then sends us out to be His ambassadors. As Jesus was with the original twelve, so He is with us.

June 25, 2023 – Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

PSALM 91:1-8; ROMANS 6:12-19; MATTHEW 10:29-32

“YOUR VALUE” – SERMON TEXT: MATTHEW 10:29-32

REV. DR. WALTER MAIER III

What is your value? The world will answer this question one way, but what matters is how God views you. You are of tremendous value to the Lord! Thus, he will watch over you, take care of you, and will use you in wonderful ways.

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

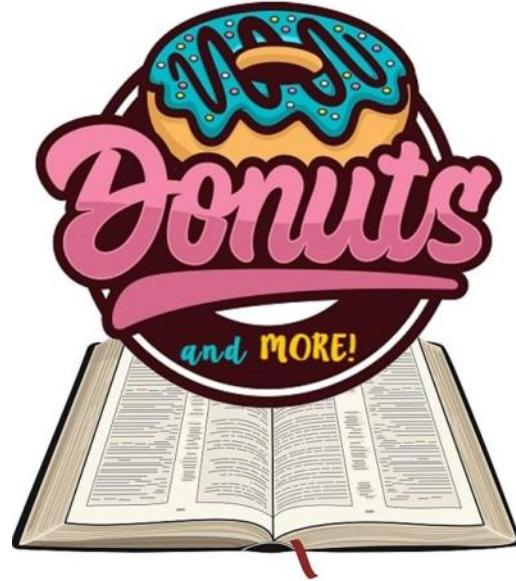
- 30-Minute Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod worship service
- Produced by Lutherans for the homebound, hospitalized...
- Includes the Gospel, Epistle, and Sermon by LCMS pastors
- Music by choirs, soloists, and small groups

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



People who poke fun at Lutherans accuse us of elevating coffee to sacramental levels. Here at St. Michael, we have the additional sacred tradition of the “Donut Hour.” Years ago when our summer late service time was at 10:30, the Donut Hour was really only a half hour (kind of like the Lutheran Hour). But for several years now we’ve had a full hour between Sunday services even in the summer and have filled it with both coffee and donuts and Bible class (and summer Sunday School). But attending Adult Bible class required leaving the coffee and donut fellowship in the gym and going into the music room (splitting up the group). This summer, we would like to keep everyone together in the gym and foster fellowship between early and late service worshipers even as we also have some special ministry programming from 10:00 am to 10:30 am in the gym. In this way, we’re going to have our donuts and study the Bible too! So if you’re an early service goer stick around and if you’re a late service goer come early. Think of it like a raspberry jelly donut: sweet fellowship on the outside with the really good stuff in the middle!

Summer Sunday School for Kids 10:00 - 10:45 am

Everyone should have time to get their DONUTS & fellowship a bit.



Through Scripture, Science and Crafts the kids will focus on seven accounts in the Bible that emphasize the soul-quenching grace that surrounds us in Jesus. This series will stretch from Creation to the Early Church, as believers experience the grace of God.

Jean E. “Baby Boomer” Bormann Grimmette Van Lente’s Prolonged Spiritual Maturation

It is not possible to talk about the development of my devotional life separate from my life altogether. I mean me, the “wretch” part, can’t be left out. I was baptized November 2, 1947, in the old LCMS German Lutheran church. My sponsor was my father’s brother, Rev. Curt Bormann, LCMS pastor. Every Sunday my parents, two sisters and I attended our new LCMS Lutheran church, within walking distance.

Elementary school was also close by. I remember shivers down my spine when we recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Elected to student council every year from first grade through twelfth grade, president of my junior class, God blessed me with many accolades. As for the nice boyfriends, Dad said, “Look for a Lutheran boy.”

I went to bed with the prayer, “Watch O’er Thy Little Child Tonight....., with stiff-bristled rollers in my hair, listening to records of “lost love” by Roy Orbison. I remember walking to A and P to buy Reese’s peanut butter cups to gorge on in secret on the porch swing. (The secret sins will “gitcha”.)

At 13, I clung hysterically to my beloved father as my mother and Pastor Eugene Lauterback took him to Plainwell for treatment of Acute Depression. My confirmation class had maybe thirty. My verse is Matthew 6:33, now etched in my headstone. Why did it take me so long to follow it?

I do not remember seeking God’s direction before choosing a university. I attended the LCMS University chapel, and I loved Rev. Richard Kapfer. In my sophomore year I began an eating disorder. Hired by the university after graduation I was on my way to a dean of students’ position.

Then came Richard, a lapsed Baptist; we married at 23. Then came my blessed son, Mark. Then a daughter Karrie was truly an answer to prayer. Richard wanted just one boy. I attended First Evangelical ELCA Lutheran church in North Muskegon. As we were building a new house, Richard was going out with a student from one of the Biology classes he taught. Soon, devastated, I was working full-time, with a four-year-old and a one-year-old to raise alone – and a mortgage. I didn’t seek God regularly in prayer for help or recognize His strength

and comfort to see us through. I had not cracked my Bible, except to teach Sunday school. I still had an eating disorder, more anorexic.

Then came John, with his daughter the same age as mine. He was an inactive Catholic, a social worker and a good father. We married. We attended First Lutheran regularly, but we didn’t pray very much, except before meals. Our children were confirmed at First Lutheran. Working full-time and overtime in a career dealing with the whole spectrum of deinstitutionalization, plus wife and family responsibilities, running and an eating disorder made me “nuts”. In addition to everything else, I felt compelled by work to go to Western Michigan University three years to earn a Master of Social Work degree. I didn’t go to the Lord in prayer. My father said, “Why are you doing this?”

After 20 years of marriage, at 49, things got rough, and I left Florida to return to my house in Muskegon. I do not think this was God-pleasing, but the eating disorders stopped for good.

I sought Jesus with great sorrow, anguish and guilt. He gave me His Spirit in abundance. I was on my knees more and more. The Holy Spirit filled my heart with a deep hunger for the Word. Since 1996, Jesus has enabled me to be faithful in prayer, now before bedtime at 6 pm and Bible reading from 6 am to 10 am daily. Every page is a marvel to me, becoming more marvelous the more I read it. I don’t necessarily get that far because I’m a slow reader, and I am constantly jumping around to find other places I remember reading that bear on what I am currently reading; then I note those other passages, wait for the ink to dry, and go back to the other sites to note all the verses to each other. I pore over, connect, cross-reference, make notes and illustrate the pages. My Bible reading has become more of a spiritual and mental gymnastics. No Bible is like my Bible, but praise God He has blessed the world with the same good news, every age the same. Maranatha!

I am the Lord your God,
Who brought you up out of Egypt.
Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.
Ps. 81:10
Jean E. Van Lente

Thank you, Jean.

Virginia Hetrick, Prayer Co-ordinator
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

The 2023 LAMP Team Needs Your Support As we prepare to serve our friends in Lac Brochet

St. Michael began the ministry to Lac Brochet, Manitoba in 2011 by sending a team of four women through the organization of LAMP (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots). God connected us through LAMP to Lac Brochet when the community asked for a team to come and teach Vacation Bible School to their children. So our relationship began, and a group of St. Michael members have traveled to Lac Brochet every year since (excluding 2020 & 2021) to share Jesus' love. For several years we were able to send a team in April too. Over these twelve years what began as a ministry to children expanded to teens and adults. So each year we return we are reconnecting with friends we have made and we are so blessed to encourage them in their faith. They reach out to us for prayer and encouragement that God does love them.



The needs in Lac Brochet are great... abuse, despair and suicide are all common there. But we have a great God and He has given us the power and opportunity to push into the darkness of sin and bring them true hope, because the message of Jesus and His love for them is the hope that endures.

The 2023 LAMP team is dependent on God's guidance as we prepare for our summer trip, August 10–20. We are still in need of financial support for the cost of travel has increased dramatically. **We currently need at least another \$5000** for the team's travel expenses, material for the VBS, Teen nights, and adult Bible studies, snacks for VBS and other activities, postage to mail boxes in advance of the trip and other expenses. **We are also always in the need of prayer support!** if you want to be on the St. Michael LAMP team's prayer team, please email dana.naumann@gmail.com to be put on the email list which receives updates while the team is in Lac Brochet. **Thank you for your ongoing prayers and financial support!**

Welcome To God's Family

Baptism: May 28, 2023



WASEELA

Born: August 19, 1985

EDRIS

Born: June 24, 2017



RAHILA

Born: April 26, 1988

FARIHA

Born: April 21, 2018



NARGAS

Born: March 23, 2007

HADIA

Born: May 1, 2019



SAMEER

Born: June 24, 2008

YAHYA

Born: October 26, 2020



SALMA

Born: July 27, 2010

ZAKIA

Born: January 19, 2022



SARAH

Born: April 21, 2013

SAMEERA

Born: March 20, 2022

RAHMANULLAH

Born: March 21, 2015



All 13 members baptized received a very special napkin that was embroidered by Arlene Groll with each of their names and the date. The family also received illustrated Bibles or daily devotional books to help them know God better and learn more of the English language.





SUNDAY MORNINGS

8th - High School

Bible Study

9:45-10:45AM Youth Room

Jr High Youth Gathering

Fri-Sun, June 2-4

Frankenmuth

Craig's Cruisers

Sunday, June 11

Leaving church at noon, returning at 6pm

Craig's Cruisers

Family Fun Center

5730 Clyde Park Ave SW

Wyoming MI 49509

\$10 per person

High School District Gathering

Sunday, June 25-28

Mackinac Island

VBS Week - Sign up to be a

Volunteer July 23-29, lots of tasks to help with. Earn service hours!

Pool Party

July 30 - 1:00-4:00pm at the home of Jeff & Beth Burnett

Congrats Seniors!

We are so proud of you!

*The LORD will keep your going
out and your coming in from this
time forth and forevermore.*

Psalms 121:8

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.

GENEVA LOUISE KRIEGER



Parents: Ryan & Theresa

Baptized: 5/8/2005

Graduating: Portage Northern

Future Plans: Kalamazoo
Valley Community College,
Graphic Design

KAITLYN ELAINE-MARIE HOGUE



Parents: Jesse & Shannon

Baptized: 7/3/2005

Graduating: Portage Central

Future Plans: *Veterinary
Assistant*

BENJAMIN SCOTT HUNTER



Parents: Brad & Cindy

Baptized: 4/17/2005

Graduating: Portage Central

Future Plans: University of
Michigan, *Neuroscience*

JARED DUANE JOHNSON

Parents: Greg & Wendy

Baptized: 2/12/2005

Graduating: Kalamazoo Christian

Future Plans: Kalamazoo Valley
Community College



BRAYDEN WILLIAM SULLIVAN



Parents: Rob & Mary

Baptized: 4/10/2005

Graduating: Mattawan High

Future Plans: Michigan State
University, *Chemical Engineering*

ELLERY MAEVE TOMAN

Parents: Jason & Serina

Baptized: 1/13/2008

Graduating: Toman Academy

Future Plans: Hillsdale College,
Exercise Science and Music



ALLISON AILEEN DOUBBLESTEIN



Parents: Chad & Monika

Baptized: 10/2/2011

Graduating: Loy Norrix

Future Plans: Wayne State,
Sociology

Top 10 things Every Graduate Should Know:

10. College squirrels are different than neighborhood squirrels. They're not afraid of humans. Sometimes they're bullies.

9. Make friends with campus police. You will park illegally at some point in your college career. Probably this semester.

8. Eating fruits and vegetables helps your body function properly. *NOTE:* Ramen noodles do NOT qualify as fruits or vegetables.

7. Say "thank you." Gratitude is a lost art in our culture.

6. Carry an umbrella. It's easy to spot freshmen – they never carry umbrellas. Don't be a freshman that gets caught in a storm without an umbrella.

5. It's OK to get homesick. Send a text, make a video call, or take a drive home. You'll be glad you did.

4. Embrace failure. It's inevitable, so learn to learn from your failures instead of being crippled by them.

3. Don't skip class ... much. Some days are too sunny to be spent indoors. But skipping class is almost always a bad idea.

2. Forge your own path. Besides God, no one understands the plans God has for you like you. Always seek good counsel, and be respectful, even if you disagree. But do things the way God wants instead of what others want.

1. Follow hard after Jesus. When you're at your college graduation party, if you want to look back over your four years of college with a sense of joy, fulfillment, and purpose, pursue Jesus and a life that reveals his kingdom. You'll have no regrets, and you'll be living an amazing story.

What are your own tips for graduating seniors?



Mission Statement: St. Michael Lutheran School and Christ for Kids Childcare Center partners with parents to develop each child's God-given abilities by providing a high quality education that nurtures faith and creates Mighty Messengers for Christ.

This year we are proud to be graduating our 14th class of 8th graders at SMLS. It is a phenomenal group of 6 intelligent, caring, fun adolescents.

They'll be going on to great things in high school! We have graduates continuing on to Portage Central, Portage Northern, Schoolcraft, and the Kalamazoo Area Math & Science Center (KAMSC). They'll have great opportunities to shine for Christ, as they continue to hone their talents in honors classes, band, orchestra, softball, cross country, and more.

We've been blessed to be able to minister to our graduates over the years, whether they joined us in preschool or just this year as 8th graders. Our prayers go out with them as they continue on into the next chapter of their lives!

Mrs. Lam & Ms. Prentice
Middle School Teachers



K-2 had a wild good time at the John Ball Zoo!

Thank God for such a beautiful day for the Concert on the Playground!





Happy Retirement & God's Blessings to Mrs. Ruesch

After five years serving as a teacher at St. Michael Lutheran School, third grade teacher Kim Ruesch will be retiring at the end of this school year. Kim served St. Michael as a long-term substitute in 1st grade and the following year stepped into the 3rd grade teaching position, which she current holds. She taught for 18 years in Tallmadge City Schools in Tallmadge, Ohio, and at St. Luke's Lutheran School in Itasca, Illinois for one year in preschool. Other assignments included Oakland Preschool in South Windsor, Connecticut and Robert Clow Elementary School in Naperville, Illinois. Kim plans to spend more time with family, especially her grandson. We thank God for her service, for touching the lives of students and school families, and for her willingness to give her best on behalf of the children in her care. We wish her the very best as she begins a new phase in her life.

ENDOWMENT FUND DISTRIBUTIONS IN 2023

Hello church members. One of the pleasant tasks of serving on the Endowment Committee is to determine which ministries the Endowment Fund will be able to assist during the current year.

This year, we had \$8,465 from our General Endowment Fund to be used. The committee was able to allocate some money to all who had requested help:

- Quilting Supplies
- In-house Women's Retreat (speaker and travel expenses)
- Outreach to VBS Community (Help fund celebration night)
- LAMP Trip
- International Lutheran Council
- Lutheran World Relief (Kit material)
- Child Care Staff Appreciation

In addition, there are 4 specific designated Endowment Funds which had distributions:

Geri Wheeler School Scholarship	\$3,485
School Scholarship	\$3,491
School Staff (helps with salaries)	\$5,118
Flowers	\$3,491

St. Michael is so blessed by the vision of members who have established and/or contributed to these Endowment Funds with the gift God provided to them. This has generated a total of nearly \$24,000 to carrying out God's work in 2023.

If any questions or is interested in knowing more about the Endowment program and possibly creating a designated fund, please contact one of the Endowment Committee Members: Todd Foster (chairperson), Brad Hunter, Rick Jacobs, Dave Johnson, Julie Vickery



SMLS Students have really enjoyed the skills of custodian, Matthew Wright. He regularly leaves artwork such as these on a teacher's whiteboard for everyone to enjoy.



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



St. Michael women had a little fun putting on their hats, in celebration of "derby day" during the Lamplight service time.



Battle Creek Zone of Lutheran Women Met at St. Michael Recently



A devotion and prayer on the topic of "Bread of Life"—John 6:35, was offered by Pastor Naumann, before the business meeting. Sandy Maya has stepped back from leadership and Renita Wolberg, Redemption-BC has returned as President of the zone. A skit and transfer of some district convention materials took place, before a delicious soup luncheon. St. Michael was asked to plan for the President's Dinner at the 2024 convention. If you are interested in getting involved, please talk to Tammy Songer in Church Office.

Many women and girls enjoyed the activities of the

birthday Bash



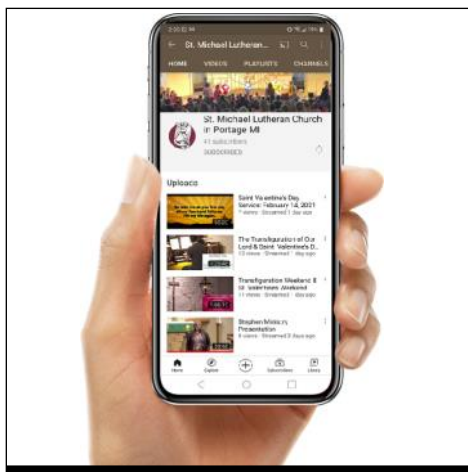
*Games,
Gifts, Friends,
Food and a
Mission
Project!*



*Interested in being on
a team to plan another
event?*

*Reach out to Tammy in
the Church Office.*





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

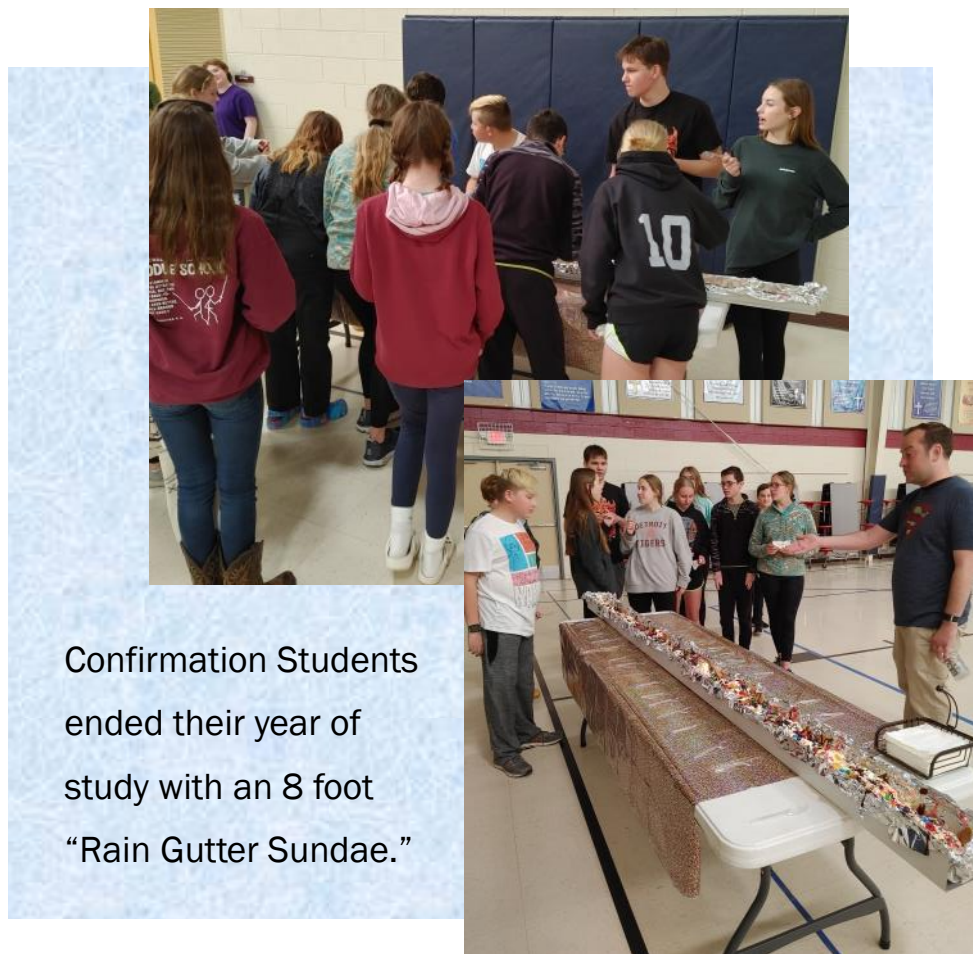
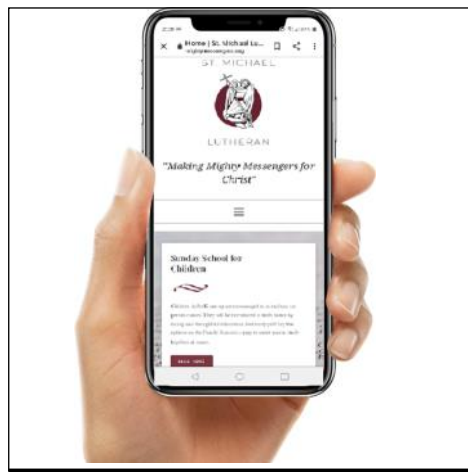
Find devotions, special event announcements and more:



@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI

mightymessengers.org

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



Confirmation Students ended their year of study with an 8 foot "Rain Gutter Sundae."

Attention Men! More golfers needed!



The Lutheran Mens Golf League needs golfers, you need a league! We play Thursdays starting at 4 pm at Pineview Golf Course, near Three Rivers. We can accommodate new teams and substitute players, as well. Text Jim Neumann @ 269/290-8442 or Andy Allan @ 269/370-7052 for more information.

DIFFERENT WAYS TO DONATE TO ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL:

- 1) 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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 23-29



Why VBS matters...

Is it a lot of work to put on? **Yes.**

Do we need everyone's help to accomplish it? **Yes!**

Is it worth it? **Absolutely!**

It's not about entertaining kids for a week. It's not about silly songs and games, even though they're fun. It's about creating an intentional time and space for kids of all ages to hear the gospel, learn Scripture, and tell their friends about Jesus. Many will agree Vacation Bible School is the most evangelistic program a church can offer to the community. Churched and unchurched kids get a full week of diving into God's Word.

VBS is a great way to minister to families in our community by ministering to their children. Moms and dads are excited to sign the kids up for 5 days of crafts, Bible instruction, learning new songs, and fun! In fact, we are almost to capacity at 200 kids.

† † † the *Christ For Kids* program will follow the theme with another 50 kiddos † † †

So how can you help?

Get registered as a Volunteer today!! *This is so important for the safety and existence of the program.* Mightymessengers.org/vbs

Here are 8 reasons you should volunteer for VBS:

1) Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these....you did for me." (Matthew 25:40). So when you are doing crafts and acting out the Bible story with 3rd graders at VBS, you are doing it for and with Jesus.

2) VBS is an excellent review for when you play Bible trivia. Most likely, you have forgotten some of the details of "Jonah and the Whale" or "Daniel and the Lion's Den." VBS is a great way to review foundational Bible stories.

3) At VBS, you will meet other volunteers and make connections with new people. Serving together is a great way to start new friendships with people

already in the church. When we attend the same service each Sunday and sit in the same place, we limit opportunities to meet new people. This shakes things up a bit!

4) At VBS, you are guaranteed to get some good exercise! Between doing the movements to the VBS songs and participating in the daily games, you are sure to get your steps in!

5) VBS allows you to be a part of sharing the Gospel with children and, in turn, impacting their families. We are called to share the hope we have, and by helping make VBS happen, you are doing just that.

6) VBS snacks are usually great! Whether you are volunteering in the kitchen or not, there is always enough for the volunteers to have a special treat or some goldfish!

7) At VBS, you will learn something new and be reminded of important truths too. When we serve others, we are obedient, and the Lord will often use that window of obedience to teach us and reveal Himself to us in new ways. So when you are serving, keep your spiritual eyes and ears open for what He wants to say.

8) If you have kids participating in VBS, this is a great way to connect with them. Even if you aren't working with their age group, you'll have plenty to share and laugh about together. It may even inspire some activities at your home with other family members.

More ways to help... - DONATIONS!!

Follow the steps on the previous page and look for "Children's Ministry" for financial gifts.

In the weeks ahead, we wish to collect many items to have available for our snacks. Please watch for the important information that gets posted on the bulletin board in the Communication Center, near the coat rack and restrooms.

Many Volunteers are Needed

Talk to Tammy in the Church office!

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*



Andy Allan



Ryan Bigelow



Dan Bryer



Jeff Burnett



Zachary Button



Harold DeFouw

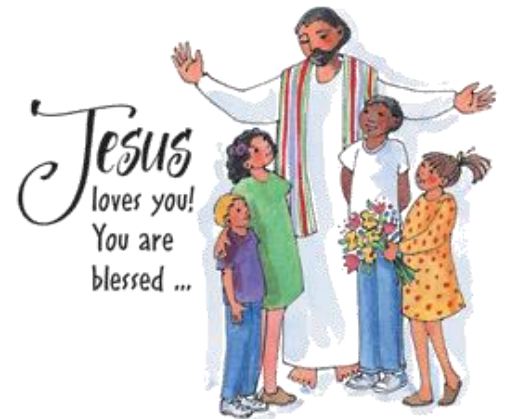


Dave Drzewiecki



Matt Heintz

Lay Ministers



SHEPHERD GROUPS



Dave Johnson



Mark Kahle



Howard McNees



Mel Schroeder



Greg Wedel



Arlan Wendzel

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
Arlan Wendzel 269-816-5632	U	Z

May 2023

Dear St. Michaels Lutheran Family,

April has been both a good month and a sad month for us. We have seen many new teens coming to club and hearing the word of God on a weekly basis. We were blessed with nice weather so that we could play football and soccer out on the field by the trailer. Teens are getting signed up for camp, which we are hosting in June, and starting to work on their service projects to help pay for camp! This was also a month when one of our dear leaders was called to a different assignment and will not be volunteering with us anymore. The teens will miss her; the connections that were formed will last a lifetime. God has done wonders through her because of the impact she has made with our teens.



We have so many things for which to be thankful and feel blessed. Recently, we had a new teen show up. Because of his autism, he is extremely hard to understand, and he doesn't like to sit still and/or focus on what we are doing at club. But he loves being there! This last week, one of our leaders asked him to read a passage of Scripture. He did a great job reading, and, when he was finished, he said, "I've never actually read out of the Bible before. This is so cool!" The excitement on his face was priceless. Thank you, Father, that this young man read straight out of your Word for the first time!

We also have so much to look forward to! Starting in May, we are launching a bike club on Monday nights, teaching teens how to maintain a bike, bike safety, and how to ride properly on roads. This is something exciting that we will get to do with teens while continuing to build Christ-sharing relationships with them. In addition, May 23rd is a day we have long waited for when our basketball court will be put in. There is a buzz in the neighborhood with teens looking forward to this going in. I believe that this is a way where we will meet more teens, have more Christ-sharing relationships through games, camps and just shooting basketballs. God has definitely blessed us with a sweet place with the basketball court, ga-ga pit, soccer field and our trailer. We are starting to see friends from inside the park invite friends from the neighborhood across the street to play with these entities, allowing us to meet more teens! Please pray for additional volunteers as our group is growing and will grow even more.

Please be praying:

- Please pray for our leader who is moving away and for God to use her in her new role in Tennessee.
- Pray that students get signed up for camp and get their service project hours in.
- Pray for our bike club that starts up this month, that teens will be impacted through this additional connection throughout the week.
- The basketball court being laid down and its impact of bringing new teens to the trailer. Pray for good relationships to be established.

Tyler and Meghan Gjeltema
 City Life Site Director - Colonial Acres



**YFC
CAMP**

"BEST WEEK OF OUR SUMMER!"

It costs \$400 per kid to go to Summer Camp.
 Will you help us take 80 kids to Wisconsin this year?
 Every gift up to \$7,500 will be matched, dollar for dollar.



**June
24-28**

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

6 Months

11/1/2022 - 4/30/2023

Church Revenue	\$ 427,193
School Revenue	\$ <u>609,354</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 1,036,547
Total Expenses	\$ <u>1,007,016</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 29,531
Expense Budget	\$ 1,003,194
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 33,353
Working Cash Balance	\$ 58,700
Mortgage Balance	\$ 687,415

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$636,846
Building Contingency	\$ 25,515
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 13,949
Sunday School	\$ 1,602
Youth Donations	\$ 17,081
Youth Accounts	\$ 6,160
Good Samaritan	\$ 2,179
Memorials	\$ 7,760
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 11,184
Quilting	\$ 1,717
POBLO South Asian Ministry	\$ 872
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 585
School Improvements	\$ 44,289
Tuition Assistance	\$ 57,571
School Music	\$ 373
Flower Fund	\$ 6,002
CFK Mission Expansion	\$ 88,613
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 3,239
Faith Budget	\$ 371

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

March '23 Avg.	420
April '23 Avg.	463
May '23 Avg.	296

Annual Avg. 2021	265
Annual Avg. 2022	295
Annual Avg. 2023	325

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
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CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND CHILD MINISTRY COORDINATOR

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SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Greg Johnson
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SCHOOL SECRETARY

Sharon Robinson

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Brenda Heintz

FIRST GRADE TEACHER

Maralyse Worm

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

Annie Hecht

THIRD GRADE TEACHER

Kim Ruesch

FOURTH GRADE TEACHER

Dawn Heid

FIFTH GRADE TEACHER

Emily Lauterbach

SIXTH GRADE TEACHER

Julie Prentice

SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER

Lisa Lam

CHRIST FOR KIDS CHILDCARE DIRECTOR

Emily Ritchie
eritchie@mightymessengers.org

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

Becky Mohler Cheryl Julian
Jessica Lonc 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

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Mark Ruesch

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Rob Kuhlmann

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Lindsey Luma, Assistant Director

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Vacant, Director

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Cindy Hunter, Assistant Director

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Greg Wedel, Assistant Director

ALTAR GUILD

Kristi Rudowske, Linda Fry

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Virginia Hetrick, Jan Chilcott

PRAYER MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Barbara Schubert, Virginia Hetrick

USHERS

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Jesse Hogue - Late Service

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Heather Crampton, Lynda Rea, Karen Shuler

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LWML

Sandy Maya

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Shannon Miskovich

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Brad Hunter, Rick Jacobs