



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

October 2023

Volume 62, Number 10

- 63rd anniversary of our congregation charter
- 20th anniversary of the Family Life Center ground breaking
- 60th anniversary of the installation of Pastor Emeritus Kenneth Allan



CONNECT WITH OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILY AT MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG, ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

“GIVE GOD WHAT’S HIS”

God makes it clear in the Bible that He is the owner of everything. For example, the LORD told Moses to remind the people that *“all the earth is mine”* (Exodus 19:5), and likewise, the Psalmist Asaph, speaking for God, says: *“every beast of the forest is mine and the cattle on a thousand hills”* (Psalm 50:10). Since God owns everything already, He really doesn’t need anything from us. There is nothing that God is ever lacking that we must supply. But that doesn’t mean that God does not want something from us. He wants our love, our worship, and our obedience. He wants our heart.

This was the message of the prophets to God’s people in the Old Testament when they were giving Him sacrifices and other things that the Law required but their heart was not in it and their behavior toward one another was not consistent with their confession of love toward God. So God said:

“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats” (Isaiah 1:11). *“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings”* (Hosea 6:6). *“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?”* (Isaiah 58:6-7).

God wants us to keep His commandments. He wants us to worship Him, to serve Him, and to contribute to the mission and ministry that He is doing in the world. But all the while He wants us to do so with the right attitude, freely loving Him back for all His love toward us, and joyfully loving and serving our neighbor as a tangible expression of our love for the Lord. If our giving to God and serving our Savior is in an effort to curry His favor, then God would just as soon we keep our contribution to ourselves. But when we give back to Him what is already His in thanksgiving and worship, then He is honored. So let us give to Him a sacrificial portion of the time He has allotted to us on earth, let us give Him glory with our talents and abilities in His service, and let us respond to Him with generous contributions from the financial means with which He has so graciously blessed us. In short, let us, as Jesus put it, *“give to God the things that are God’s”* (Matthew 22:21).

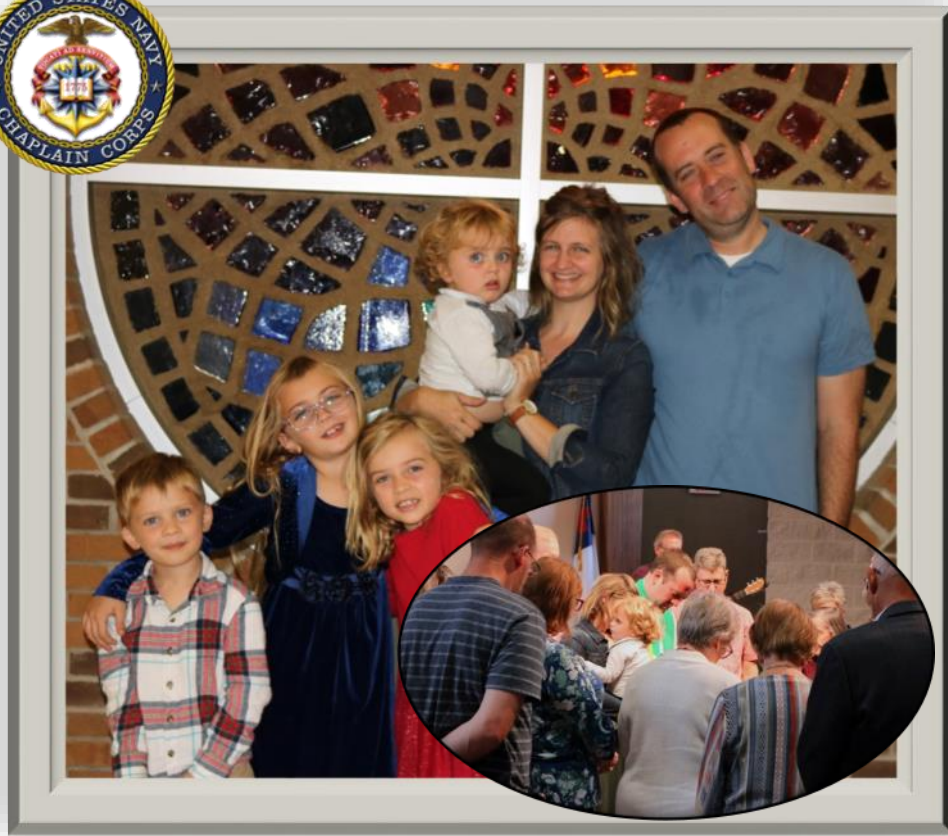
So here’s our Stewardship emphasis topics and readings for this fall . . .

Sept 30/ Oct 1	Pentecost 18 <i>“Give God What’s His: Your Soul”</i>	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18	Matthew 21:23-27
Oct 7/8	Pentecost 19 <i>“Give God What’s His: Fruitfulness”</i>	Isaiah 5:1-7	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
Oct 14/15	Pentecost 20 <i>“Give God What’s His: Respect”</i>	Isaiah 25:6-9	Philippians 4:4-13	Matthew 22:1-14
Oct 21/22	Pentecost 21 <i>“Give God What’s His: Everything”</i> Commitment Sunday	Isaiah 45:1-7	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22

In the near future, you’ll be receiving a mailing from us with the commitment form to complete and place on the altar on October 21 or 22. You’ll also be receiving a 14-day devotional booklet entitled *“Financial Counsel from God’s Word: Five Steps to a Transformed Financial Life.”* I’ll be leading a three session Bible study on this topic also on October 15, 22, and 29. Please plan to take part in it all so that you might be blessed, and thereby be a blessing to the Lord and to others in His name.

WE ARE CALLED

to make disciples of *Jesus*



Glorious God, You call us to love and to serve, not only with words, but also in presence and actions. Lord, you surround us completely in time, in space, and in spirit. No matter where we go, you journey with us and use us to reveal your grace and mercy.

Through your servant, Rev. Daniel Maske, please open the eyes of those who fail to see your presence. Through his service encourage souls overcome with fear and worry.

Grant his family patience and peace as they await his homecoming. In Jesus' Name.

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

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



Making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ by building up one another in the faith, and reaching out to others with the Gospel.



**Altar Guild
Brunch**

You're Invited to the Annual Gathering Saturday, October 21 10AM - Allan Hall

This is a great opportunity for all to learn more about the role of Altar Guild. Come, if you might consider serving even on a part-time basis. We will sign up for serving in 2024, so bring your personal calendar with you.

RSVP please to Kristi Rudowske

Home: 269-324-5792 Text: 269-532-5043

Email: kspitz2001@yahoo.com

Worship Assistants Are Always Needed.

Ask how you can be of service to the Lord!

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| ◇ Greeters | ◇ Choir |
| ◇ Ushers | ◇ Praise Team |
| ◇ Acolytes | ◇ Instrumentalists |
| ◇ Scripture Readers | ◇ Vocalists |
| ◇ Children's Message | ◇ Prayer Team |
| ◇ Audio/Visual | ◇ Pew Checkers |

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

October 1, 2023 – Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
PSALM 25:1-10; EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32; MATTHEW 21:23-27
"BY WHAT AUTHORITY" - SERMON TEXT: MATTHEW 21:23
– REV. SHAYNE JONKER

By what authority? Jesus' own words and works gave witness to His authority. He told the religious authorities as much. If you don't believe His words, then look at His works. Healing the sick, casting out demons, stilling storms, walking on water, raising the dead. These are the works that God does, and only one who is authorized by God can do these kinds of things. The Words and miracles of Jesus are His badge of authority.

October 8, 2023 – Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
PSALM 80:7-19; ISAIAH 5:1-7; MATTHEW 21:33-46
"FAITHFUL VINEDRESSERS" - SERMON TEXT: MATTHEW 21:33-46
– REV. PAUL SHOEMAKER

In the parable of the wicked vinedressers Jesus recounts how God's chosen people, Israel, were unfaithful to their calling. The Christian Church, which is the New Israel, is to be faithful to God's calling by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

October 15, 2023 – Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
PSALM 23; ISAIAH 25:6-9; MATTHEW 22:1-14
"KINGLY LOVE" - SERMON TEXT: MATTHEW 22:1-14
– REV. WILLIAM MUELLER

During His earthly ministry Jesus loved telling parables about banquets and parties. These parables are great ways to teach the truths of His kingdom. The truth we discover in the Parable of the Wedding Banquet is that attendance and participation in His banquet is on His terms. And His terms are lovely and gracious!

October 22, 2023 – Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost
PSALM 96; 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10; MATTHEW 22:15-22
"TURNED TO GOD" - SERMON TEXT: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:9-10; PSALM 96:1
– REV. DR. THOMAS AHLERSMEYER

Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection turns our lives from sin's despair and certain death to a living hope that awaits His return. We wait with a "new song" in our hearts and on our lips, a "song" of love for God and our neighbors whom He has entrusted to us. Yes, we are people who, through the Gospel's power, are TURNED TO GOD!

October 29, 2023 – Reformation (Observed)
PSALM 46; REVELATION 14:6-7; JOHN 8:31-36
"THE ETERNAL GOSPEL" - SERMON TEXT: REVELATION 14:6-7
– REV. PAUL SHOEMAKER

Our God is consistent in all that He says and does. He has given to us an eternal Gospel. We know that this eternal Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, is an unchangeable truth promising the reward of life in heaven.



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

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

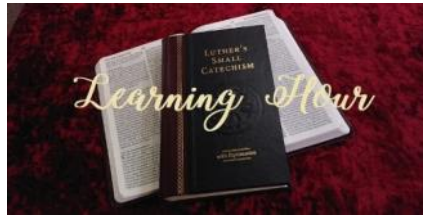
- 30-Minute Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod worship service
- Produced by Lutherans for the homebound, hospitalized...
- Includes the Gospel, Epistle, and Sermon by LCMS pastors
- Music by choirs, soloists, and small groups

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



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

Life throws us challenges and temptation every day. . .

Unless one builds his character on the rock-solid foundation of God's Word, he will surely be swept away by the flood now inundating the world.



Students were recently presented with a few: putting the name of books of the Bible in the correct order and moving a cookie from your forehead into your mouth without using hands.



KIDS IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM

Sunday School is pretty fun!

We welcome more friends to join us.





OFF TO A GOOD START

Classes for St. Michael Lutheran School students began on Monday, August 28. We have had a smooth start to the year, as we welcomed 19 new students to our school! For the past three years we have seen record enrollment in the K-8 program and continue to maintain numbers in the Christ for Kids early childhood program.



What's new this year?

1. Using a State of Michigan security grant, the school and childcare now have enhanced door security with new exterior key FOB entry and rekeyed interior doors.
2. We welcomed Jennifer Humbarger, as the new third grade teacher. Mrs. Humbarger now fills the position vacated by Kim Ruesch who retired last spring. Jennifer, who has three children of her own at St. Michael, comes with 15 years teaching experience and has proven to be a great fit with the staff and school culture.
3. With a great deal of research, the school has just adopted a new K-2 program for emerging readers developed by the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI). It became clear that the pandemic took its toll on student reading and there was a need to find a quality, comprehensive program to strengthen our reading curriculum and meet the varied needs of our students. Teachers are excited about using this excellent program.



We are excited about the 2023-2024 school year and look forward to continuing to deliver quality instruction with Christ at the heart. Please continue to pray for the school ministry. Your financial gifts and willingness to volunteer help make our school a vibrant and growing ministry!

Blessings, Greg Johnson, Principal



PRAYER MAPPING

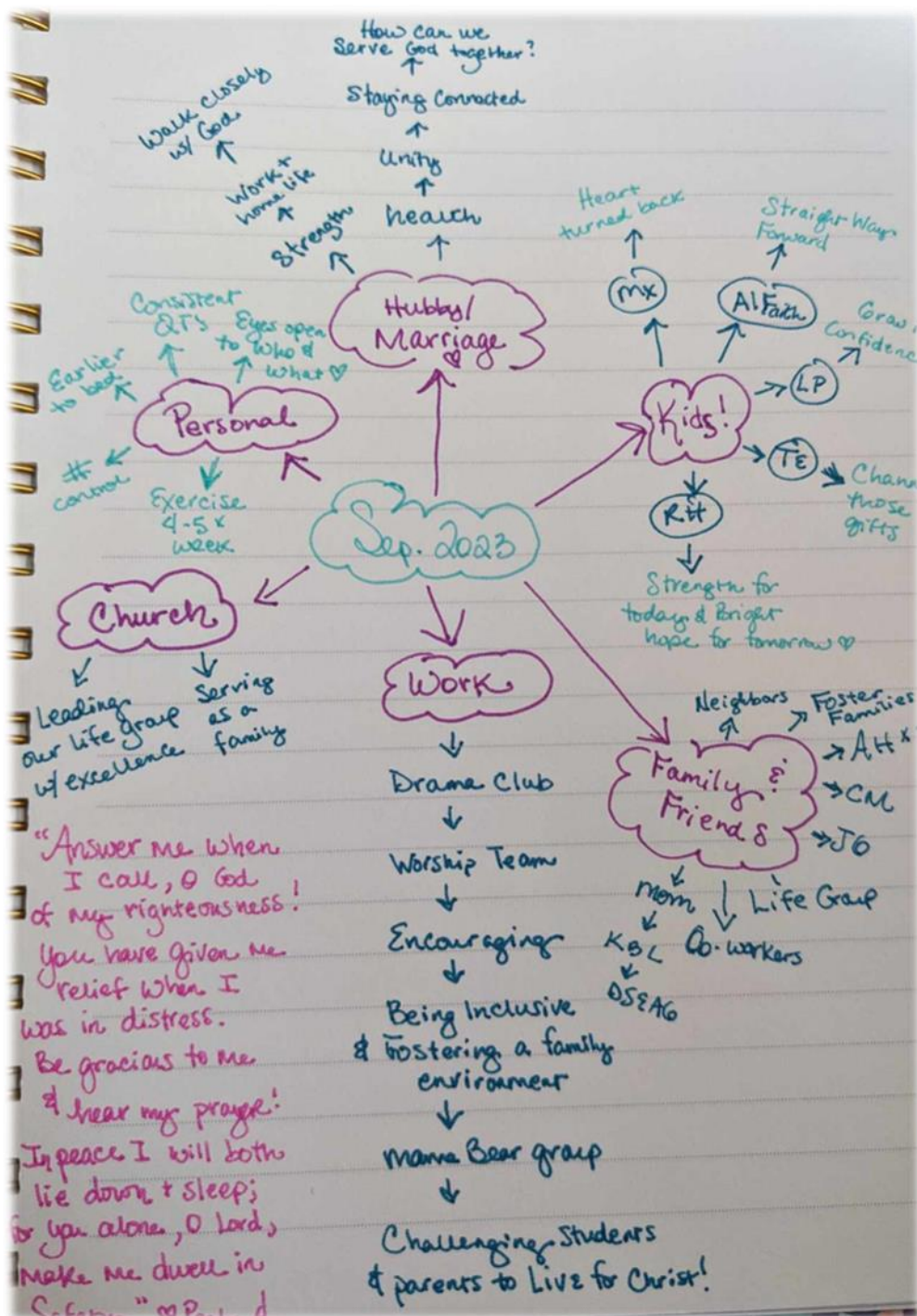
Our offering this month for praying is a unique opportunity that I was not familiar with, Prayer Mapping. What a wonderful idea when you are trying to sort through your thoughts and organize them.

Prayer Mapping is a way of organizing and directing your prayers for specific people or topics. It can be done with a simple list or a detailed drawing, and it can help you focus and deepen your conversation with God. Prayer mapping can also involve finding out about the spiritual climate of your area and praying for its influence for Jesus.

Attached is a prayer map by Angie Heimlich. She says, "A long time ago I learned how to use a 'map' like this to create lesson plans for the preschool classes I was teaching. The idea was to make sure the students were working on projects that would use all the skills they needed such as cutting, gluing, painting, etc.

A few years ago, during a particularly busy season, the Holy Spirit reminded me of this mapping idea, and I decided to use it during my quiet time to organize my chaotic thoughts and prayers.

Prayer mapping has really helped me and I'm so glad this idea has inspired others as well."



SUNDAY MORNINGS

8th - High School Bible Study
9:45-10:45AM Youth Room

SUNDAY EVENINGS: A variety of fun together!

- 10/8 Bonfire
- 10/22 Werewolf something ??
- 10/29 Night Museum ??
- 11/5 Dodgeball
- 11/19 Progressive Dinner
- 12/3 Make Cookies
- 12/10 Sakura Dinners
- 12/17 Movie Night



LIBRARY QUIZ:

How well do you know the library at St. Michael?
Take this quiz to find out!

There are more than 6,000 items in our library.

True

False

Most of the library's books are old and falling apart.

True

False

It's impossible to find anything quickly in the library.

True

False

To borrow books, you must have a physical library card.

True

False

You must pay a fine if you keep a book for more than two weeks.

True

False

The library is open Sundays from 9:30 to 11:00 am.

True

False

Someone will help you borrow books if you stop in the library.

True

False

ANSWERS:

True. About three-fourths of the collection is children's books.

False. The average copyright date of all materials is 2004. New books are always being added to our collection.

False. Most books are organized by genre. Plus, you can search the collection using our online catalog. Visit the library page on the church website to access it.

False. There are no physical library cards. But if your name is in the church directory, then a patron account has been created for you. You can borrow books!

False. You can borrow materials for four weeks and there are no overdue fees.

True. Additionally, library is now open from **5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

Wednesdays to coincide with other activities in the building, such as Confirmation classes.

True. When the library is open, a volunteer can help you locate and check out materials.



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*

LCMS Foundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

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

LIFE IS FULL OF MILESTONE EVENTS THAT IMPACT THE GIFTS WE PLAN FROM OUR ESTATES.

In 1971, Herb and Rachel lost their son in the Vietnam War. Though that was 52 years ago, Herb and Rachel still remember the day they received the bad news. Today, their son would have been 71. They wonder why they are still living at 94, when their son's life was so short. They are thankful that in Jesus, both they and their son will live with Jesus in eternity.

A year before their son left for Vietnam, he had married, and his wife was expecting a child when he left. Through the years, Herb and Rachel felt responsible for this child, but now they know that at age 52, their grandson is a successful, happily married man with children of his own. The plans they included in their estate 52 years ago are no longer needed for his survival.

Herb and Rachel feel it is time to rebalance their estate plan, equally dividing the family inheritance between their two surviving children, and this grandson. As they contemplate this, they realize that both of their children, just like their grandson, are quite comfortable financially. But they have been hearing a lot lately at Church that families need scholarship support to send their children to the Lutheran School. There is an endowment fund set up for that purpose. They feel their estate plan should include a gift for this endowment. Yet at their age, the work of figuring this all out on their own seems intimidating. They called their LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor, who led them with some questions, to finally settle on a \$100,000 gift for ministry. They found out they could create this gift simply by changing a beneficiary designation on their IRA which they never touch. They are thankful more children will be taught about Jesus, just like their son was when he was in this school.

Do you sense that your plans are changing? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you organize that new plan.

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.



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/>

AUGUST FINANCIALS

10 Months

11/1/2022 - 8/31/2023

Church Revenue	\$ 689,000
School Revenue	\$ <u>957,063</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 1,646,064
Total Expenses	\$ <u>1,665,598</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ (19,533)
Expense Budget	\$ 1,646,696
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 12,163
Working Cash Balance	\$ 9,937
Mortgage Balance	\$ 675,050

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$654,330
Building Contingency	\$ 32,352
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 13,021
Sunday School	\$ 36
Youth Donations	\$ 19,696
Youth Accounts	\$ 4,824
Good Samaritan	\$ 4,025
Memorials	\$ 8,592
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 11,325
Quilting	\$ 1,974
POBLO South Asian Ministry	\$ 3,096
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 585
School Improvements	\$ 39,249
Tuition Assistance	\$ 60,444
School Music	\$ 472
Flower Fund	\$ 4,624
CFK Mission Expansion	\$ 88,613
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 3,374
Faith Budget	\$ 370

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

July '23 Avg.	292
August '23 Avg.	277
September '23 Avg.	287

Annual Avg. 2021	265
Annual Avg. 2022	295
Annual Avg. 2023	302

EMPATHY: A BETTER GIFT THAN SYMPATHY

We all are familiar with sympathy cards, but have you ever sent someone an “empathy” card? Experts would say that an empathy card – if it existed – would be kinder and far more helpful.

Sympathy and empathy are both reactions to seeing someone suffer, and the words are often confused. Here are examples of sympathy versus empathy. See if you can tell the difference!

SYMPATHY	EMPATHY
“I’m sorry that your boss is angry at you. At least you still have your job!”	“I’m sorry that your boss is angry at you. I’m so glad you told me. I’m here for you.”
“That’s terrible that you and Pat are having problems. Have you tried marriage counseling?”	“Having marriage problems must be rough. Tell me more about what is going on.”
“Oh yes, I’ve had trouble sleeping, too. It was awful. What helped me was taking melatonin every night. Worked like magic!”	“It sounds like you are frustrated at not being able to sleep. I’m sorry you are having to go through this. How are you coping?”
“But Terry, you aren’t worthless. How can you feel that way? Look at all you’ve accomplished! I think you are amazing!”	“You feel worthless? <i>[Pause.]</i> I don’t know what to say. But I am listening. Take your time. Tell me more.”

Sympathy is more about the speaker than the person who is suffering. It lets him or her know that you feel badly, but your response ignores or dismisses the person’s feelings (because you feel uncomfortable). You offer advice or solutions, or you try to make the person feel better. Sadly, the result is that only *you* feel better. It doesn’t really help the one in need.

Empathy is not only the better choice, but the more powerful choice. It is feeling *with* another person. It doesn’t offer solutions; it offers connection. Research professor Brené Brown explains, “Empathy is communicating deep love for people, so they know they aren’t alone.”

The Stephen Ministry team at St. Michael spent the summer reading a new book about empathy from Stephen Ministries. Here are its suggestions for offering empathy:

- Be present.
- See from their perspective.
- Listen carefully.
- Remain attentive.
- Ask follow-up questions.
- Validate feelings.
- Respond with compassion.



stephen
MINISTRY®

The next time you send a sympathy card, add a note expressing empathy. Your recipient will be glad that you did. If you are experiencing your own difficult circumstances, contact the Stephen Ministry leaders or Pastor Naumann to request free, confidential, one-on-one, Christ-centered support.



The next 40 Days for Life campaign will go until November 4. We are again participating in Kalamazoo, along with many other cities globally. We pray outside of Planned Parenthood located at 4201 W. Michigan.

We as Lutherans for Life cover the 4-5 PM Thursday pro life time slot throughout the 40 Days Campaign, down in front of Planned Parenthood. Note: spending that time (or another in the day of your choosing) in sanctity of human life prayer at home is also a blessed pro life option. We will have pro life prayers available at the LFL counter in the Communication Center. Questions? call Bill and Carolyn Burns.



Schedule

11:00 am – Rally at Capitol Statehouse Steps
12:00 pm – Michigan March for Life

While registration is not required, you can sign up [HERE](https://p2a.co/9sD90j6) (https://p2a.co/9sD90j6) for updates to be delivered to your email.

This is an excellent opportunity for advocates of life of all ages and political persuasions from across the state to join with one voice on behalf of the defenseless! This rally and march are suited for all levels of experience and comfort with advocacy.

Both the Michigan House and Senate will be in session in Lansing- but more than that, because it is the anniversary of the passing of the brutal, dehumanizing Proposition 3. After we have seen a wave of exciting pro-life legislation across the states, now is a great time to continue the momentum and show our state lawmakers support for protecting the sanctity of life in Michigan.

LFL APP

- Find the **FREE** Lutherans For Life App in App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android).
- You can also scan the QR Code on the right.
- App contains volunteer and Frontline resources, Y4Life resources, and Word of Hope resources.
- Find Life Week presentations, blogs, free resources and infographics, Zoom presentations, information about Lutherans For Life, and more.
- Hotline number for Word of Hope. Providing 24-7 Lutheran spiritual care.
- Discover Lutherans For Life on all of our social media platforms.
- Listen to our For Life Live Series and Life-Minded Series podcasts.
- Find information and register for our National Conference in Cincinnati, OH from Wednesday, October 11, through Friday, October 13.

DOWNLOAD THE APP



Lutherans
For Life

Lutherans For Life would love to discuss ways we can support and serve YOU. Please call David Probst at (812) 603-7970 anytime!

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

Fall is here and that means **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** is just around the corner! As you make preparations for Fall Festivals and Thanksgiving

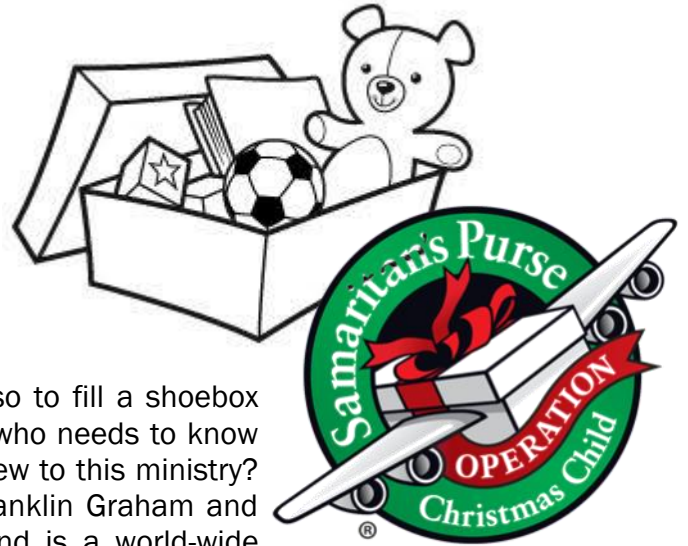
celebrations, plan also to fill a shoebox with gifts for a child who needs to know the love of Christ. New to this ministry? It's headed up by Franklin Graham and Samaritan's Purse and is a world-wide

operation. People in many countries pack a shoebox with small toys, hygiene products, socks, shirts, etc. and through a well-organized process the boxes are shipped to poorer areas – including some in the US. Children who receive a shoebox are also given the greater gift of being introduced to Jesus and the love He has for them. What better gift can be given?

Shoeboxes will be available for you October 22 – November 5. The last day to return them is November 12. Boxes can be picked up/returned at the display in the Communication Center. Every box will have instructions inside with suggestions on items to include. But remember – the most important thing you can include is your love and prayers. God has in mind a specific child that needs to know that you care.

Can't or don't like to shop? For \$25 you can build a box on line!

For personal stories and more, go to: samaritanspurse.org/occ



Marriage 
Encounter

Attention: Veterans!!

Those Couples who have attended Marriage Encounter in the past should consider joining other vets for a Renewal Weekend at The Shack in Jugville, Michigan on November 3-5, 2023. Call 231-924-6683 to reserve a room at the inn. After you register, email Brian and Donna Zelner at dwzsearch@gmail.com and let them know so they can put you on the list of participants. Rooms are filling up fast so call soon to register.

Remember that a good marriage must be created and nurtured! It is giving each other a safe place in which to grow. It takes care and work to remain in the place where your marriage can thrive, whether you are newlyweds or old folks like us who have been at this for SIXTY years. Hope to see you at The Shack!

Lynne & Arlan Wendzel

St. Michael Church, School & Childcare

COMING A TRACTION

an Awesome

TRUNK OR TREAT!

Saturday, October 28

LOTS of
Candy
Donations
Needed



Vehicles
&
Volunteers
Needed

REGISTER AT:

mightymessengers.org

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



Sunday, October 8 | 2-4:30 PM Allan Hall

Come join us in a **Bible Study with Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez** from the mission field in **Lima, Peru**. Our theme for study is how important for us to recognize our *Refuge is in Jesus*. There will be opportunity to **shop handmade items and resurrection bags**, in support of missionary **Becky Grossmann**, Lutheran Bible Translator in Liberia.

As always, find out how your mite money is at work in the mission field. Learn how Lutheran Women in Mission is adapting to needs of today, Michigan District LWML Vice President of Special Focus Ministry, **Ann Campbell**, will share the exciting work that is being done among us.

**Women of all ages are encouraged to come and fellowship.
Bring a friend and we will have a Salad Supper to share.**

**MORE
exciting
EVENTS
coming
SOON**



Monday, November 13

7 PM - Allan Hall

**CRAFTING GIFTS for Homebound Friends,
Dessert & Fellowship**

Sunday, December 3

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

5:30 PM - Bring Appetizers to Share

Bring a gift for a fun exchange

Devotion by Candlelight in Sanctuary

Saturday & Sunday, December 9-10

HOLIDAY TREAT SALE

Bring Cookies/Treat for packaging
at 1 PM Saturday

*Make your purchase at any of the Worship Times
that weekend. All proceeds used to purchase new
banners for Sanctuary.*



Board of Properties invites your family to come ready to work, as we clean up the areas around our building. An indoor project would be to assist in cleaning kitchens.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14
8am-12pm

Bring your gloves and tools that could assist. Dress for the weather and lunch is being planned.

TOWNHALL MEETING COMING SOON!

Sunday, October 8

Between Worship Services in Gym

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

October 29th

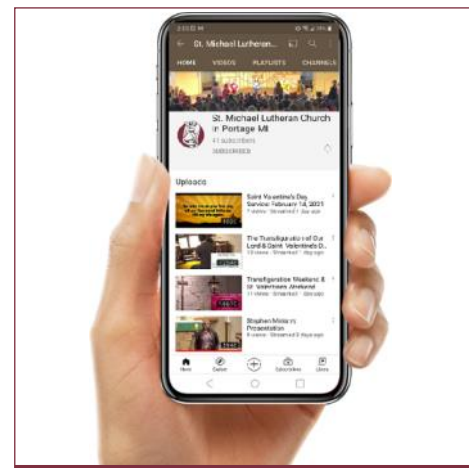
following Late Service



Praying together strengthens our church and us. Prayers are welcome to join Virginia Hetrick and Barbara Schubert at 5:30pm on Wednesdays in the prayer room. We pray for the confirmation class and their families and other requests as given to us. Come when you can, leave when you must, but come.

Serving the Lord in the ministry of His church is gratifying as you're doing something that really makes a difference in the lives of people. You'll also find that your own faith grows in the process of giving and serving others. And you'll have the added bonus of getting to know some people well and building some valuable relationships.

Just give a call to the church office at 269-327-7832 and ask for help to match up what you like to do with what needs to be done in the Lord's work among us.



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

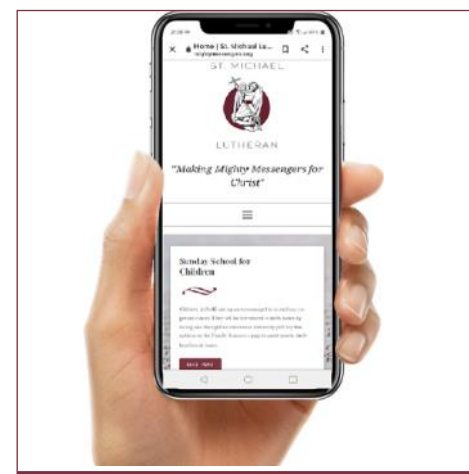
Find devotions, special event announcements and more:



@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI

mightymessengers.org

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



Celebration Time



A collage of 18 photographs capturing various moments from a community meal. The images show people of different ages and backgrounds gathered in a large hall with blue bleachers. Some photos show individuals posing for portraits, while others depict groups sitting at tables with blue, green, red, and brown tablecloths, or standing in lines at a food service area. The atmosphere appears to be a friendly and communal gathering.

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:

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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

Jennifer Humbarger

FOURTH GRADE TEACHER

Dawn Heid

FIFTH GRADE TEACHER

Emily Lauterbach

SIXTH GRADE TEACHER

Julie Prentice

SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER

Lisa Lam

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WORSHIP MEDIA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

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CHOIR DIRECTOR

Carolyn Bertrand

ORGANIST

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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

Mike Minger - Early Service
Jesse Hogue - Late Service

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS

Pastor & Dana Naumann, Virginia Hetrick
Heather Crampton, Lynda Rea, Karen Shuler

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Lane Bertrand, Bob & Pam Besser,
Zachary Button, Peter Robert,
Bill Semrau, Kathy Zakarias

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LWML

Sandy Maya

SOFTBALL

Shannon Miskovich

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Brad Hunter, Rick Jacobs