



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

September 2023

Volume 62, Number 9

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

“Behold, I Have Set Before You an Open Door”

There’s an old saying that when God closes a door He opens a window. Well, sometimes God just plain opens a door – a door of opportunity that He invites us to walk through. Such was the case again for our congregation with our LAMP mission, as we sent a team of eight up to Lac Brochet, Manitoba. You can read about their experience and see some pictures in this newsletter. You can also join us for worship on Labor Day weekend and hear from the team firsthand in all three of our weekend worship services. It truly was an open door for ministry once again, as we interacted in meaningful ways with dozens of children, teens, and adults.

Another open door that the Lord has given us is our St. Michael Lutheran School and Christ for Kids Childcare Center. There is a growing concern and discontent among many families in our community over what is being taught in our public schools, especially with regard to race and gender issues. Several parents seeking options have found an open door at our school, bringing us to a record high enrollment. May the Lord help us walk through the open door to ministry that this presents us with, and enable us to teach the truth of His unchanging Word without capitulating to the secular culture.

We pray that our Lord Jesus’ words to the church in the ancient city of Philadelphia would also ring true for us as the church in Portage:

† † †

“The words of the Holy One, the True One, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. ‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name’” (Revelation 3:7-8).

† † †

Ironically, even as the Lord is presenting us with open doors for mission and ministry, we are also installing high tech locks on all our exterior doors and rekeying all the interior doors of our entire building. It has been decades since we have changed the locks, and well over 200 people currently have keys. Combine this with the growing concern for school and church safety and security and it is clearly time for a change. Now everyone

who is endeavoring to enter an outside door, or a main interior door into the school and childcare center, will need a special key fob to enter electronically (*and it will keep a record of who came through the door and at what time*). Once inside, the interior doors of the church, school, and childcare center will all be uniquely keyed. A few of us will have keys to every door, but most of us will have keys only for their specific purposes. Finally, there are several fire doors that we have gotten used to propping open all the time but from now on they will need to be closed (but there will always be crash bars for immediate exiting). Our Board of Church Properties will be communicating to you in the near future who is entitled to a key and how to get one. Please be paying close attention to the Friday enews, and look for announcements in the worship bulletin and in *The Mighty Messenger* monthly newsletter.

Change is always challenging, and it will be disconcerting for many of us to no longer have access to the building in the same way that we are accustomed to having. I pray that we can all see this change as another “open door” of ministry opportunity with greater safety and a more secure environment for our worshipers, volunteers, staff, and for the hundreds of children that are entrusted into our care every day. When it comes to our school and childcare center, some families in our community may be drawn to us not specifically for Christian education but for morality and safety. We are happy to provide them with this, but in the process we will also share with them the saving truth about our Lord Jesus Christ who is Himself “the door” (*John 10:7*) to heaven that only He can open. As a member of St. Michael, you may or may not have keys to the church building, but as the Church of Jesus Christ, may you always know that He has given you the “Keys of the Kingdom” (*Matthew 16:19*). Let us all faithfully use those Kingdom Keys to open heaven’s door whenever possible.



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

BLESSINGS, PRAYERS & BIBLES FOR KIDS

Martin Luther was passionate about making the Bible accessible to every Christian - translating scripture into the language of everyday German. Each fall at St. Michael, third graders have received their own copy of the Faith Alive Bible. **We are inviting both 3rd grade students of our church and school to participate this year in our Bible Blessing & Workshop.**

We are excited to give Bibles to the students during worship services on September 10. These students and parents are also invited to take part in a Celebration Workshop that day at 9:45am in Allan Hall. Attend the service of your choice, but [please register with the Church Office](#), so we will know to reserve a Bible for your child.

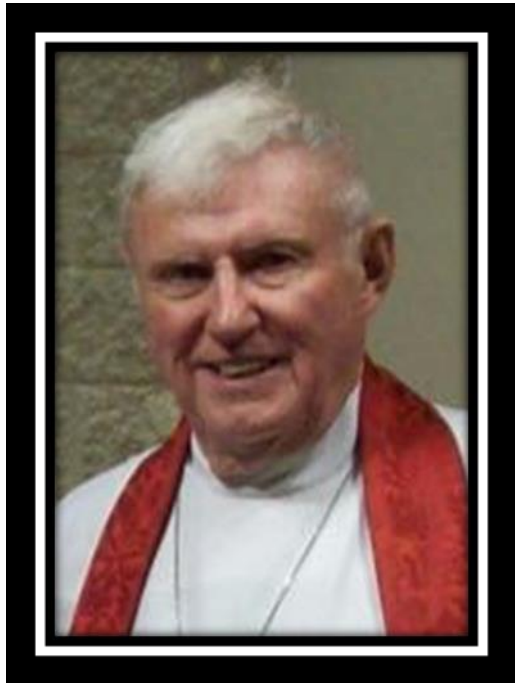
As their faith family, our prayer is that this gift will help them go deeper in their relationship with God.



The *Faith Alive* ESV Bible has been designed especially to introduce young readers to the promises of God's Word. Each section begins with information about the book, giving readers the big picture about the content including the author, dates, main themes, and significant events. This Bible contains colorful charts and informative articles, timelines and maps that aid students' understanding, a glossary to help explain difficult words, and a special 4U feature that helps students apply passages to their lives. ***Come to our Bible Blessing & Workshop to explore more!***

Saint Michael Sunday

September 24, 2024



Celebrating Pastor Ken Allan

Sixty years ago, St. Michael extended a divine call to Rev. Kenneth Allan to be our pastor and in the summer of 1963 he was installed. Other than spending about ten years in Tennessee after his retirement in 1997, Pastor Allan has been consistently and faithfully worshipping with us and remaining active in our ministry. So for at least fifty years here at St. Michael, he has been teaching, preaching, visiting the elderly, and administering private communion to those who are homebound. We are truly blessed to have this remarkable servant of the Lord as our pastor emeritus and we marvel at how active in ministry he has remained over all these years. Praise God! Let's thank Pastor Allan and celebrate him on our St. Michael Sunday, September 24, both in the worship services and at a special dinner in his honor at 12:30 pm in the gym.

Marty Miller - Special Guest Musician (*at the 11:00 am Morning Song Service*)



Everything is free and
open to the public.
Invite your friends!

Tanzanian Dinner

Hosted by Liberatha Kwigizile
September 24 @ 12:30 pm in the gym.





40-some Kindergarten and 5th grade students reading together.

Tuesday morning all-school prayer.

LUTHER HOSTEL

November 1–3, 2023

This year's theme:
"The Christian Spiritual Life: Worship, Scripture, Prayer, and the Fruits of Faith"

Visit: ctsfw.edu/LH



Come at 6:30 on Tuesday evenings, beginning September 12th. We meet in the library. Let me know if you want me to order you a book, or you can get your own.

The first topic we will study is the book Women of the Bible Speak by Shannon Bream. The reviews promise we'll learn about how God used women in His plan and continues to do so!

Excited to meet and learn what God has for us! schubertbrs@gmail.com



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

"Peace be with you" My favorite part of worship, from childhood on, has been when my pastor has said these words: "go in peace, because you are at peace with God." This is not an invitation or a suggestion, it is objective truth. You ARE at peace with God. That is your status, and that cannot be changed by anyone or anything.

The picture I have attached depicts Jesus standing before the throne of God with His arm embracing one of His redeemed. The throne has Hebrew words written on it ("truth" on the right, and "mercy" on the left.") Jesus stands bold before the throne, holding up His nail-pierced hand. Even though the throne of God is holy, and terrifying, and surrounded by stunning glory, and the girl's hair is shown being whipped by the swirling majesty of the Living God, Jesus says, "she is mine; I died and live for her."

Dear friends in Christ, Jesus Christ died and lives for you. You are His, and nothing can take you out of His crucified hands. Live in this peace, and live courageously. Tell someone today that you love them, and so does Jesus.



The Gospel always wins, and the devil always loses.
In Jesus Christ the Conqueror,

Pastor Maske



September 3, 2023 – Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Psalm 26; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

"Genuine Love" – Sermon Text: Romans 12:9-21

– Rev. William Mueller

God's Word teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Is our love "The real McCoy"? No fakes or forgeries will suffice! How is our love impacted by the real Jesus? No fakes or forgeries will suffice!

September 10, 2023 – Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Psalm 32:1-7; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

"Courageous Conversations" – Sermon Text: Matthew 18:15-20

– Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

God moved heaven and earth, sending His Son Jesus Christ to die and rise to life, because of His great love for us. He calls you and me to exercise such extravagant and urgent love in the lives of others. He calls us to Courageous Conversations with those He places among us.

September 17, 2023 – Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Psalm 103:1-12; Genesis 50:15-21; Matthew 18:21-35

"Forgiveness Benefits" – Sermon Text: Genesis 50:15-21

– Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

When wronged, we are tempted to get revenge. But Jesus teaches us to forgive those who have trespassed against us. There are, in fact, great benefits associated with forgiving others.

September 24, 2023 – Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Psalm 27:1-9; Isaiah 55:6-9; Matthew 20:1-16

"Unreasonable Generosity" – Sermon Text: Matthew 20:1-16

– Rev. Thomas Eggold

The generosity of God goes against everything we innately hold dear. It is not fair. It makes no sense. And yet, because of this unreasonable generosity given to us through Jesus, we are saved!



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 Kurlewicz, Carrol McCarty*, Nancy Miller, Dean Monck, Wilma Ritchie, Marilyn Sible, Joyce Stafford, Darlene Surch, Carol Truhn, Ernie & Judi VanOrman, Sharon White

TV MINISTRY YOU CAN TRUST!

Access for Kalamazoo and Portage

Monday	1 PM			
Wednesday	5 AM & 10 AM			
Friday	7 AM			
Saturday	6 AM			
Sunday	6 AM	10AM	6PM	10 PM

Spiritual Channel 187

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

DISCIPLESHIP

Christian education is vital to our Spiritual health and growth.

We value discipleship through the Christian education of children and adults of all ages as essential and vital to our spiritual health and growth. While we highly value people of every age, we are especially excited about our population of young families, many of whom come into our congregation through our Christian education programs for children.

Luke 18:15-17



SUNDAY MORNINGS
9:45-10:45 AM
PLANS FOR THE FALL
SEMESTER

THE ENGAGEMENT PROJECT:

You may be familiar with popular video Bible study “The Truth Project” by Dr. Del Tackett. Now his next attempt to help us build a comprehensive, systematic biblical worldview is called “The Engagement Project.” It’s designed to help us know God more deeply and to understand who we truly are, why we are still here in the world, and what God has asked us to do. The Engagement Project’s ten “tours” will take us on a marvelous quest of seeking the face of God and seeing the Crown Jewel in His nature—a quest we hope and pray will deeply transform the Body of Christ. This will lead us to understand where we are in God’s Meta-Narrative, and help us grasp the incredible vision that God has entrusted the primary work of the Kingdom to the common, everyday Christian. If God should so bless, and the Body of Christ would simply begin to do what He has asked us to do, it can change our lives, radically transform our families, and by God’s grace, turn the world right side up. There is also a two minute trailer and a four minute video overview at this link - <https://www.deltackett.com/what-is-engagement-project>

THE GOOD \$ENSE COURSE:

Our business manager, Jay Koski, will help participants discover tools and develop skills that enable them to control their finances, rather than allowing their finances to control them. Participants get practical help and guidance to:

- Prioritize financial goals
- Develop a personalized spending plan
- Identify action steps to reduce expenses
- And give reflection on how our relationship with money impacts our relationship with God.

BIBLE OVERVIEW...

Even though the Bible is always the world’s number one best seller, many people don’t know what’s in it. To make matters worse, children in the public schools never learn about the Bible so it remains rather mysterious. Many of us know some familiar Bible verses, but may not be aware of where they fit in the larger context of biblical literature and history. If you would like a simple “this is your Bible” type instruction for a few weeks, this class is for you. The first session is a basic overview of the big picture of the Bible, the second session is how to interpret the Bible, and the third session is on reading the Bible devotionally. If you have your own Bible, bring it with you so that you can get to know it better. If you don’t have one, we can provide you with one to borrow or to keep.

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

Date	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
9/10	Overview of Adult Bible Classes (Pastor Maske - Gym)	Exploring Our Faith 1 – Triune God (Pastor Naumann – Naumann Room)	—
9/17	Bible Overview 1 – The Holy Bible (Pastor Maske – Allan Hall)	Exploring Our Faith 2 – God the Father (Pastor Naumann – Naumann Room)	The Engagement Project 0a (Jesse Hogue – Music Room)
9/24	Bible Overview 2 – Interpreting the Bible (Pastor Maske – Allan Hall)	Exploring Our Faith 3 – Sin & the Law (Pastor Naumann – Naumann Room)	The Engagement Project 0b (Jesse Hogue – Music Room)
10/1	Bible Overview 3 – Devotional Bible Reading (Pastor Toman – Allan Hall)	Exploring Our Faith 4 – Jesus Our Savior (Pastor Naumann – Naumann Room)	The Engagement Project 1a (Jesse Hogue – Music Room)
10/8	<i>Town Hall Meeting - Gym</i>	Exploring Our Faith 5 – The Holy Spirit (Mr. Greg Johnson – Naumann Room)	—
10/15	Financial Counsel from God's Word 1 (Pastor Naumann)	Exploring Our Faith 6 – Prayer (Virginia Hetrick – Naumann Room)	—
10/22	Financial Counsel from God's Word 2 (Pastor Naumann)	Exploring Our Faith 7 – Office of the Keys (Mr. Greg Johnson – Naumann Room)	—
10/29	Financial Counsel from God's Word 3 (Pastor Naumann)	Exploring Our Faith 8 – The Church (Mr. Greg Johnson – Naumann Room)	—
11/5	Good Sense 1 (Financial Dilemma) (Jay Koski – Allan Hall)	Exploring Our Faith 9 – Holy Baptism (Pastor Naumann – Naumann Room)	The Engagement Project 1b (Jesse Hogue – Music Room)
11/12	Good Sense 2 (Earning, Giving, & Saving) (Jay Koski – Allan Hall)	Exploring Our Faith 10 – Lord's Supper (Pastor Naumann – Naumann Room)	The Engagement Project 2a (Jesse Hogue – Music Room)
11/19	Good Sense 3 (Saving and Debt) (Jay Koski – Allan Hall)	New Member Orientation (Pastor Naumann – Naumann Room)	The Engagement Project 2b (Jesse Hogue – Music Room)
11/26	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>		
12/3	Good Sense 4 (Spending) (Jay Koski – Allan Hall)	Advent Bible Study 1 (Pastor Maske)	The Engagement Project 3a (Jesse Hogue – Music Room)
12/10	Good Sense 5 (Balancing the Budget) (Jay Koski – Allan Hall)	Advent Bible Study 2 (Pastor Naumann)	The Engagement Project 3b (Jesse Hogue – Music Room)
12/17	Good Sense 6 (Records & Commitment) (Jay Koski – Allan Hall)	Advent Bible Study 3 (Pastor Naumann)	The Engagement Project 4a (Jesse Hogue – Music Room)



Our new season of Confirmation instruction is about to begin! **Orientation is Wednesday, September 6 at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.** This discipleship time is for students within the 6-7-8th grades.

From our Small Catechism, confirmation is described: “Confirmation is a public rite of the church preceded by a period of instruction in which baptized Christians learn about the confession, life, and mission of the Christian church”.

In other words, confirmands will be learning more deeply about the faith they have received by the Holy Spirit so that they can boldly, confidently, and publically affirm and swear allegiance to God and the free gifts He has given. This is not something to be entered into lightly, but deliberately and seriously.

Confirmands will, on the day of their Confirmation swear to: “live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death”. This is a serious and joyful promise!

As such, we look forward to a faithful and productive year of growing in our faith and knowledge of God, our loving Savior. God bless our confirmands as well as those who will be praying for and working alongside them.

This year we will focus our time and attention on the Apostles’ Creed; what we believe and confess by the power of the Holy Spirit.

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

Small Groups meet on a variety of days and times. Some groups are focused on specific demographics or issues, while others are open to all.

Groups are listed according to category. For more information, reach out to the leader as listed or to see about starting your own group, contact the church office at 269-327-7832.

MEN'S SMALL GROUPS

Leader: **Jesse Hogue** hoguejesse@gmail.com
(269-744-1187)

Kind of Group: Men (Breakfast)

When: **Tuesdays**, 7:00 am

Where: Michelle's Restaurant on Sprinkle Road

Leader: **Jay Koski** (269-567-8290) *Text for mtg. info.*

Kind of Group: Young Adult Men

Leader: **Jerry Lentz** (269-329-3299)

Kind of Group: Men

When: **Every Other Saturday**, 8-10 am Beginning 9/2

Where: St. Michael Lutheran Church, Room 230

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUPS

Leader: **Angie Heimlich** (616-403-7342)

Kind of Group: Momma Bears

When: **2nd & 4th Mondays**, 7:30 pm Sept. 25 to May

Topic: *Faithfully Different*, by Natasha Crain

Where: St. Michael Lutheran Church, Room 114

Leader: **Barbara Schubert** (563-580-8975)

Kind of Group: Women of all ages

When: **Tuesdays**, 6:30 pm

Where: St. Michael Lutheran Church, Library

Leader: **Connie Chadderdon** (269-327-7220)

Kind of Group: Mature Women, *1 and 2 Thessalonians*

When: **Thursdays**, 9:30-11am *mid-Sept. to May*

Where: St. Michael Lutheran Church, Allan Hall

Leader: **Jan Chilcott** (269-324-9539)

Kind of Group: Women of all ages

When: **Thursdays**, 9:30 am *mid-Sept. to May*

Where: St. Michael Lutheran Church, Room 230

Leader: **Angie Heimlich** (616-403-7342)

Kind of Group: Moms – children welcome

When: **1st & 3rd Fridays**, 10 am Sept. 15 to May

Where: St. Michael Lutheran Church, Allan Hall



MIGHTY MESSENGER

SMALL GROUPS

St. Michael Small Groups are caring communities in which God forms us through His Word.

As we explore the Bible together, the Spirit deepens our faith and our bonds of Christian love.

Small Groups are places of study, prayer, service, and care.

MIXED SMALL GROUPS

Leader: **Pastor Paul & Dana Naumann**
(269-491-7832)

Kind of Group: Mixed

When: Begins Sept. 17 - **One Sunday a month**,
12:30 pm (*with food*)

Where: St. Michael Lutheran Church, Allan Hall

Leader: **Dave Johnson** (269-599-2195)

Kind of Group: Mixed

When: **2nd & 4th Mondays**,
7 pm - Not January-March

Where: Rotating location

Leader: **Arlan & Lynne Wendzel**

(269-279-9196)

When: **3rd Tuesdays** - Not January-March

Where: Three Rivers

Kind of Group: Mixed



Praying together strengthens our church and us.

Jan Chilcott coordinates the group for Tuesday mornings. Join them at 9:00 am in the prayer room.

Pray warriors 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.

Want to receive prayer requests by email and join the multitudes that faithfully lift up petitions? Contact the Church Office to be included.

Have a prayer concern/request then contact the Church Office to share a few details and we will be sure to let the Prayer Team know.



We are very grateful and appreciative of all the kind words and cards of consolation that we have received from the congregation as we grieve the death of Dana's dad, Conrad Seidel ([obituary attached](#)).

He died on Sunday morning, August 20, just before we were able to get back from the LAMP trip and go up to Higgins Lake to be with him. But we were able to see his body in Grand Rapids the next day and so we could say our goodbyes in person, even as we knew he was at the same time "at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8).

I'll be conducting his funeral at Trinity Lutheran Church in Traverse City on September 9 at 1:00 pm, and his burial will be at Holy Cross Lutheran Cemetery at his hometown of Saginaw on September 15.

Thank you for your love and prayers.

thrivent*

Make a difference in your community through St. Michael. It is easy with Thrivent Action Teams. Submit an application by logging into your Thrivent account. Members are offered two opportunities to receive up to \$250 in support of a project each calendar year. Be sure not to miss out on using them! [Here is a link to the application page.](#)

Don't have an account? You can be an associate with a \$20 annual member sign up. Which gives you one opportunity for a \$250 grant to support a project.

Once your project application is approved, you'll receive a package of customized resource tools to kick-start the project. *Not sure what to do?* Contact the church office for details. We have several things within our church calendar that could benefit from your support.

Dojos of the Risen Son
The art of self-defense & awareness

Learn:
Self-Discipline
Self-Confidence
Self-Defense
Self-Control

Join the family:
visit - www.dojosoftherisen.com
call - 269-821-4124
or email: dojosoftherisen@gmail.com
for more info.

**TUESDAYS
6-7:15 PM
GYM**

Self-defense taught from a Biblical perspective
Show this ad to an instructor and get your first month **FREE!** Find us:

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

A new banner has been added to our inventory. You may have noticed the LAMP banner in the sanctuary. It was made by Virginia Hetrick, to honor the memory of Bud and all the teams that have participated in the LAMP mission to Lac Brochet and to help our congregation remember to pray for the teams and the people impacted by those visits.



CONVENING THE COLONIAL ACRES COALITION

On Tuesday morning, August 22, a breakfast meeting was called of representatives from all of the congregations that are partnering together to bless the Colonial Acres Mobile Home Park and support the Youth for Christ missionary, Tyler Gjeltrema, who is deployed there as one of their City Life centers. The coalition now includes New Life Church (represented in the picture by Pastor Dan and Kelsey Smith).

The doublewide that has been converted over to the ministry house is beautiful and now has a very nice concrete full size basketball court up and running, adjacent to their soccer field. What a blessing!

This fall, the Good News Crew (Kindergarten–Fifth Grade) will be meeting in the ministry house every Thursday from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Youth for Christ City Life Club (Sixth Grade–Twelfth Grade) will meet there every Tuesday night from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. In addition, there is now a Bike Club for junior and senior high kids every Monday night from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

If you would like to volunteer to help with any of these things, give a call to Tyler at 269-806-4724.





The next 40 Days for Life campaign will start on September 27 and go to 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.

It is preferred that you sign up by doing one of the following: Signing up directly at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/kalamazoo>; Emailing 40dayskalamazoo@gmail.com; Calling Joe at 989-992-6085

St. Mary's of Kalamazoo will be having a candlelight prayer vigil on Sunday, September 24 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to come. Candles will be provided. Please park on the dead end street to the west of Planned Parenthood.

We require everyone who comes out to pray to read and agree to our statement of peace document. It can be found on our website under resources - <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/kalamazoo>

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.



2023 National Conference - October 11-13
Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport | Erlanger, Kentucky
with visits to the
Ark Encounter and Creation Museum

REGISTER NOW! SPACE IS LIMITED!

For more information, visit lutheransforlife.org/conference.





Pastor Naumann's LAMP 2023 Journaling:



DAY 1: Today was a long grueling day of travel as we drove to Grand Rapids airport at 4:30 am and by 9:00 pm we were getting a little something to eat at a very rustic convenience store in Grand Rapids, Manitoba. That was about 2/3rds along the way of our 8 hour drive in two rental vehicles between Winnipeg and Thompson, Manitoba. Earlier, we had flown into Winnipeg from Minneapolis after our flight out was delayed twice (the good news is that they gave us all a \$15 lunch voucher for our trouble). Finally, after taking turns driving and right around midnight, we were warmly welcomed by our very gracious host Katherine at her cute home in Thompson. We had never met her before but she was truly an angel of mercy. All are heads hit the pillows with gratitude for God's goodness, dreaming of more adventures in the morning.



DAY 2: It's a beautiful day in Lac Brochet! Everyone is enjoying the sunshine, gentle breeze, and fairly low flying bug count. We were greeted at the airport right away and transported by a couple people in pickups who took us the mile or so into town and into the church rectory. We spent quite a bit of time unpacking all our duffle bags of supplies and unpacking the boxes we shipped and the supply closet of stuff and getting ourselves organized and settled in. It wasn't long before we were welcoming by groups of children ready to play. A special treat was a group of teen boys who came together, one of whom was an amazing guitarist who treated us to a little concert. We encountered lots of adults too, including some setting up pavilions for Treaty Days



coming up this week (it's also the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Lac Brochet). More to come on that! We were pretty impressed with the new teen center that was built since we were here last year. It's great to see kids of all ages enjoying it.

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

DAY 3: There was a chance to sleep in this morning, as today is the calm before the storm of activity with the VBS. But the combination of excitement and a deflated air mattress got me up around 6:00 am for some coffee and quiet time in the Word. As the whole team eventually roused and gathered for



breakfast and devotions, we proceeded to plan what our VBS games and teen night activities might be. After lunch we went over to the gym and got everything set up for the VBS with all the tables and chairs, posters on the walls (that were made by our own SMLS students), wrestling mats on the floor, and the all important AV equipment (that we always have to scrounge around the school to find and rig together as if making a radio on Gilligan's Island). Afterwards, we rehearsed a couple days worth of skits, made a grilled cheese and soup dinner, and then played with dozens of kids a kind of kick ball game called "Boot-it" until the sun went down about 10:00 pm. And what a beautiful sunset it was (especially red and orange on account of distant forest fires).



DAY 4: We woke up on the Lord's Day to fairly smokey air, but it burned off by 9:00 am and turned into a beautiful morning. Community people began coming into the church sanctuary for the rosary about 10:30 am and then we joined them for the



mass around 11:00. They invited Dana to make an announcement after the service about our LAMP events this week, and they had also asked me to read the Gospel and preach on it (which I was happy to do). It was Matthew's account of the disciples in a boat and Jesus walking on the water to meet them - something they could all envision. After a little lunch we spent most all afternoon in the gym working on



training some community volunteers on the crafts we'll be doing with the kids at VBS (see picture) and rehearsing the skits for the week. We made a marvelous feast of fish for dinner, combined with some pork chops that a community friend brought over when he joined us for the meal. Unfortunately,

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



the running water isn't working in the church right now so we carried all our dirty dishes over to this same friend's house to wash them (and also bring home several jugs of water from his house too). Time to get to bed and rested for the big day tomorrow.

DAY 5: We awoke this morning with a mixture of excitement and fear of the unknown about how things would go today with our first day of the Bible School. The morning light revealed the most ominous brown clouds hanging over the community that any of us had very seen, and sadly, we still had no running water either. But we pressed on and spent most of the morning in preparation of the VBS curriculum. We wanted to get to the school gym especially early and really have our act together, quite literally as there was a drama to rehearse. It used to be that we would just have a story teller do all the talking and the kids would pantomime the parts, but last year and this year we scripted fairly elaborate plays, complete with flip booklet cue cards for every actor. What astounded us, is the 45 kids that were sitting on the wrestling mats were captivated by it such that you could hear a pin drop all throughout! In fact, for whatever reason, I would say that all afternoon the



kids were at least 50% more cooperative than I've ever experienced here (even though we had to do everything indoors on account of the smoke, and rain). It's "Treaty Days" this week and the 50th anniversary of the founding of Lac Brochet, so various community activities are planned, including a big community feast that we are invited to enjoy. This delayed our teen night an hour, but hey, we're getting used to late nights.



DAY 6: Last night was our teen night, which got a late start on account of the Treaty Days kick-off dinner. Even so, it was very well attended. It's hard to say how many for sure because there was lots of movement and coming and going but I would guess about 30 who were either playing basketball and other sports, or watching the game, or doing crafts and a kind of Bible Bingo. It was difficult to get many to focus and cooperate but I think some good things came out of it, especially relationship building. In terms of any faith or character development, there's little evidence, but we try to focus on the process rather than the results and just do what we can for our part. I must say, the rough night before made for a tired and fairly discouraging morning, but we endeavored to build each other up and by 1:00 we



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

put on a rather good VBS day, albeit with somewhat less kids. We're finding ourselves competing a bit with the Treaty Days activities (lots of community contests and competitions) but we appreciate the fun they're having and how they invite us to join them on occasion. We're also enjoying an overnight visit by LAMP pilot Andrew and missionary Michael. It's plenty crowded with 10 around the table, but well worth it!

DAY 7: It was a really great day all around. After our morning devotions and conversation with our two LAMP staff visitors, we went outside to a very beautiful day and walked to the band office and gave gifts to the chief and his staff, then we did the same at the Nurses Station and at the Health Center on our way to the school. Set up and rehearsal went well, and the kids arrived at 1:00 excited for another day, this time on the theme of God as our Abba Father and the Lord's Prayer. When the very active



four hours were up we persevered to rehearse the final drama for the week, a bit of a passion play as we will be focusing on Jesus as Savior. Upon return we took in some Treaty Days activities and watched them engage in boat races. They even had us judge the sand castle competition. Kris and Brandon went with a Dene friend on about a five mile run out to the chain of lakes. They were gone for hours and saw a bald eagle and even a couple black bears! After dinner, Dana and Ailene hosted seven community women in a Bible study, and the men delivered a gift to some of our special community helpers and the prayer shawls made by St. Michael members to the elderly women of the community. Once again it was a very full and rewarding day.



DAY 8: Everyone was excited to make today grand finale, and in some respects it surely was. The VBS drama was the most elaborate of all, a passion play that proclaimed Jesus as our Savior who bore our sins for us on the cross. The kids were quite spell bound by it, and the salvation in Jesus alone message was reinforced many times over in the various activities. It's always a bit bittersweet when the kids go out the door for the last time until next year as we will miss them, but we're also quite exhausted and ready to be done. There was lots of clean up to do at the school and still more when we got back to the rectory. But we got it all done in time for a big spaghetti dinner that included three community people that we invited to join us. Of course, we weren't done entertaining kids either as after dinner we filled the front room with about dozen of them, playing Bible bingo, and guitar. Finally, when we shoed them out the door about 10:00 pm we knew we had to say good bye for another year as surely none of them will be at the airport to send us off at 9:00 am the next morning.



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

God Loves
MARRIAGE

GodLovesMarriage.org



MAKE EVERY DAY SPECIAL WITH YOUR SPOUSE!

Strong communication skills make strong marriages. Enhance your couple communication with Lutheran Marriage Encounter. It is time to make the all important decision to participate!

Apply NOW for this year's retreat to be held at Best Western Plus Hotel, Kalamazoo, MI

September 29 @ 7:00 pm – October 1 at 4:00 pm

Check out details and apply at <https://GodLovesMarriage.org> or contact Mark & Jan Chilcott at mchilcottme@gmail.com or 269-998-6147.

Total cost for the weekend including lodging, meals and program is \$275 per couple. The experience is priceless!



A fellowship event is being planned for the women of the church on **Saturday, September 9 at 11:00 am.**

You are invited out to brunch at Michelle's Restaurant (677 Romence Road). *Linda West* will review: "When God Winks At You" by Squire Bushnell.

Interested in coming? Please **RSVP** by adding your name to the Guest List in the Communication Center or Call Tammy in the Church Office by September 3rd. If you have questions, you may also call Arla Mayhew at 269-327-4643.



SUNDAY MORNINGS

8th - High School Bible Study

9:45-10:45AM Youth Room

SUNDAY EVENINGS

A variety of fun together!

Sept 10

5-7pm Floor is lava and International dinner night

Sept 24

5-7pm Volleyball/Basketball, you choose

YOUTH Bash 2023

Let Us Know You Are
Coming By Requesting...
YOUR FREE TICKETS!!

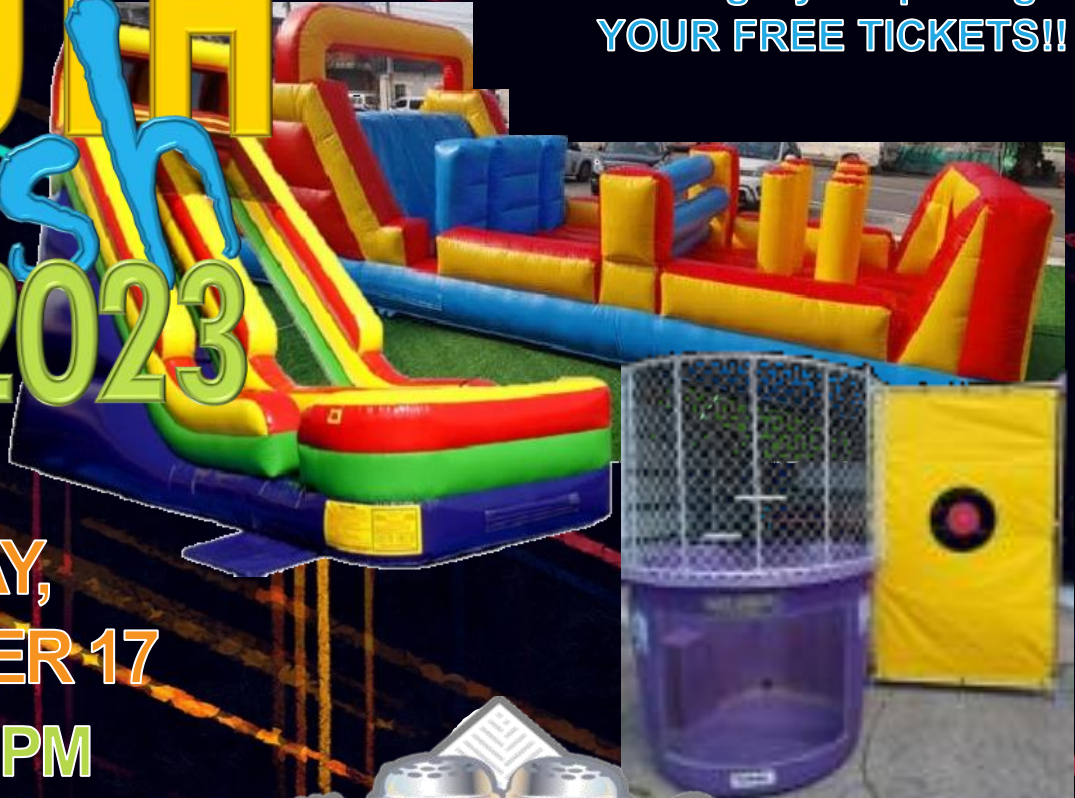
**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17**

4:00-7:00 PM

**ENJOY THE FUN
AND FRIENDS!!**

**FOR THE
6 - 7 - 8TH GRADE
& HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS**

**AND PARENTS:
YOU ARE INVITED!**

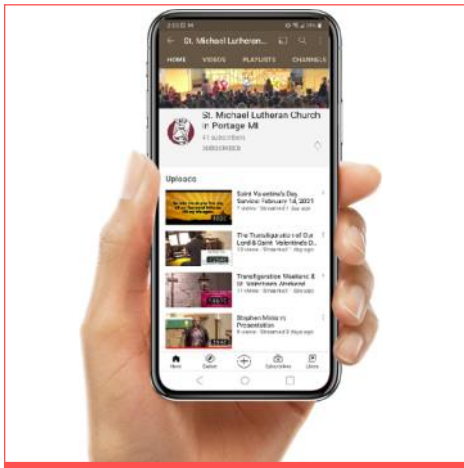


**Serving a
yummy meal of
Pulled Pork or
Pulled Chicken
with 3 sides.**



**This family-owned truck
is coming to St. Michael's
YOUTH BASH!!**

**Serving: Handmade in Michigan Ice Box Bars,
Classic Ice Cream Bars, Ice Pops, and FatBoy Ice
Cream Sandwiches**



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

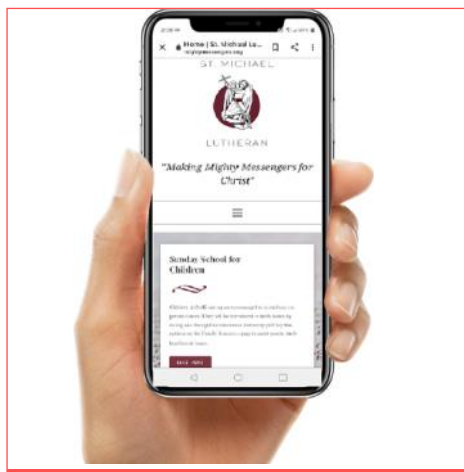
Find devotions, special event announcements and more:



@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI

mightymessengers.org

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



KALAMAZOO GEOLOGICAL & MINERAL SOCIETY TAILGATE SALE AND SWAP

Sept 23, 2021

9am to 3pm

Food vendors expected onsite!

St. Michael Parking Lot Event to be held rain or shine.

Jewelry, Rocks, Minerals, Lapidary, Equipment, Crafts and other nifty items!

The Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society (KGMS) is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization whose main purpose is to further interest in gems, minerals, geology, paleontology, and lapidary arts. The KGMS also awards geology scholarships every year to student(s) attending Western Michigan University's Geological Sciences Department.

Open to anyone that wants to buy or sell jewelry, rocks, minerals, lapidary, equipment, crafts and other nifty items. All items sold must be rock or lapidary related. Vendors should bring their limit of 2 tables. KGMS will not require a booth cost, but a donation to the society would be appreciated. Contact Bruce at 269-303-5749 or e-mail fireball9207@charter.net



Yes, the name is intentional to our goals, reflecting the love of Jesus in the work we do together.

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 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.

Lutheran Women in Mission

October 8 - 2:00-4:30 pm

St. Michael, Portage

(Allan Hall)



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



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

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 starts and stops, but the Lord looks at all our lives in one grand design. Our estate plans dwell in the grand design vision, instead of focusing only on the moment.

Bev and Frank were sitting out on their porch one evening reflecting on the events of their lives. Since marriage, they had lived in five different cities, as jobs had led them. Children's school events had once captured their lives. Now their local pickleball tournaments take up much of their time. They smiled and cried together as they reflected on life's events. But then Frank said, "Life just feels disjointed. With all the twists and turns, what was the purpose?" Bev responded, "Do you remember that verse from Bible study the other night? I think it was Colossians 3:17. Pastor made us memorize it. 'Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.' I'm pretty sure that's the point, don't you?" "You are right," Frank said. "Do you think our estate plans reflect that confidence or should we call the LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor who spoke at Church last week?" Bev replied, "Let's call her. I want to celebrate Jesus in all our life stages."

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started.



KZOO
www.lovekzoo.today

Here to show how God can care for us with His love and grace by teaching practical life-skills, providing outside resources, and working with community partners.

Fundraiser Dinner

November 2 6-8:30 PM

*Please consider joining us for dinner
and learn how you can help us change lives.*

Hosted at: Centerpoint Church, 2345 10th Street N, Kalamazoo 49009

Tickets are \$20 and include dinner and one drawing entry

Or, sponsor a table of 8 for \$100

Purchase tickets at: www.eventbrite.com, search for lovekzoo

We provide: Free life-skills classes that follow an intentional, faith-based curriculum. Childcare, Gas Cards/Bus Tokens

Items needed to assist clients: Gift Cards for Gordon Food Services, Meijer, Speedway Fuel, Hobby Lobby, Home Depot, area restaurants, and Stamps

Phone: (269) 353-6798

resources@lovekzoo.today

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/>

JULY FINANCIALS

9 Months

11/1/2022 - 7/31/2023

Church Revenue	\$ 631,922
School Revenue	\$ <u>867,589</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 1,499,511
Total Expenses	\$ <u>1,489,394</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 10,117
Expense Budget	\$ 1,483,831
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 15,680
Working Cash Balance	\$ 39,588
Mortgage Balance	\$ 680,851

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$654,352
Building Contingency	\$ 34,940
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 12,813
Sunday School	\$ (12)
Youth Donations	\$ 19,544
Youth Accounts	\$ 4,825
Good Samaritan	\$ 3,264
Memorials	\$ 8,120
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 12,792
Quilting	\$ 1,518
POBLO South Asian Ministry	\$ 2,596
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 585
School Improvements	\$ 44,504
Tuition Assistance	\$ 59,748
School Music	\$ 328
Flower Fund	\$ 4,865
CFK Mission Expansion	\$ 88,613
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 3,288
Faith Budget	\$ 371

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

June '23 Avg.	299
July '23 Avg.	292
August '23 Avg.	277

Annual Avg. 2021	265
Annual Avg. 2022	295
Annual Avg. 2023	303

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
gjohnson@mightymessengers.org

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

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

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ORGANIST

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Jesse Hogue - Late Service

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