



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

November 2023

Volume 62, Number 11

“For ALL the Saints”

CONNECT WITH OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILY AT [MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG](https://mightymessengers.org), ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

“FOR ALL THE SAINTS”

The story goes that a little boy and his dad were coming out of church one Sunday morning and noticed a plaque on the wall that listed the names of members of the congregation who were in our nation’s military and killed in the line of duty. The little boy asked his dad why the names were on the plaque and his dad replied, “these are our members who died in the service.” The boy thought for a moment and then asked his dad, “was that at the 8:30 or 11:00 service?”

During my time at St. Michael, we’ve not had anyone die in the worship service, but we have had some people faint and have had to call 911 on a few occasions. But the reality is, people who come to church tend to live longer than those who don’t. As of the 2020 US census, the average life expectancy of an American is about 77. But several years ago, the Washington Post reported that a major study of church attendance and mortality found that people who attend church every week live an average of seven years longer than people who never attend worship services. A more recent study found that regular church attenders live on average an extra three years. Either way, it’s safe to say that people who go to church tend to live longer than those who don’t.

At the end of last week, 91 year old Pastor Allan and I conducted the funeral of a 95 year old woman. Her son’s father-in-law was at the funeral, too. He is the pastor who recruited me to Concordia Ann Arbor when I was a kid in Florida. He is 96. At the end of September, I conducted a funeral for a 96 year old, and his widow who is in her mid-90s is in our pews every Sunday. In fact, in our pews this month will be several faithful worshipers who are over 90 years old. My step-father-in-law who worships with us faithfully is 90, and on November 14 my mother (who is down in Florida) will turn 94. In this month of November, Pastor Allan and I will be making home visits on about ten of our members in their 90s. Actually, one is already 100.

I would say that during my time at St. Michael I’ve ministered to about a half a dozen people who were centenarians.

As we celebrate all the saints on All Saints Day, let’s remember not just the saints of old, but the old saints who are yet in our congregation and worshipping with us regularly. Sadly, in our culture we often don’t value and appreciate our elders like other cultures might. But the Bible surely encourages us to revere old people. God says: “You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man” (Leviticus 19:32) and “Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life” (Proverbs 16:31). The fourth commandment to “honor your father and your mother” continues to apply to every one of us all throughout our life, and it actually comes with the promise of long life as well (Exodus 20:12).

The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ is and always should be a place where old people are honored, listened to, and learned from. The Church is multi-generational and the place where people of all ages come together to bless and serve one another, and to join together in praising and glorifying God: “Young men and maidens together, old men and children!” (Psalm 148:12). There’s hardly a congregation on earth that is not wishing that they had more young people, for we know that Christianity is always just one generation away from extinction. But as much as we want and need to reach out to young people in our community, let us also celebrate the older people that we have among us. Who knows, perhaps the presence of vibrant old people in our fellowship will be part of the draw for younger people to want to be in God’s family, too.



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



THANKSGIVING EVE

November 22

worship

6:30PM

DONATE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR
LOAVES & FISHES COMMUNITY PANTRY

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

Dr. Paul Naumann, Senior Pastor
Rev. Daniel Maske, Associate Pastor
Rev. Jason Toman, Assistant Pastor

7211 OAKLAND DRIVE
PORTAGE, MICHIGAN 49024
269-327-7832

www.mightymessengers.org

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

A Dress Rehearsal for Living in Communion with God

"For some reason, people tend to confuse the means with the actual goal. In the beginning, you tend to think that God really cares about your exact posture, the exact day of the week for public prayer, the authorship and wordings of your prayers, and other such things.

Once your life has become a constant communion, you know that all the techniques, formulas, sacraments, and practices were just a dress rehearsal for the real thing—life itself. A constant intentional prayer. Your conscious and loving existence gives glory to God."

(Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life ,Richard Rohr)

The image of the congregation's worship as a dress rehearsal for living a life in constant communion with God may not be the only image that describes worship, but it adds another layer of understanding for worshipers of all ages.

As we seek to include children in the congregation's worship it reminds us that the goal is not that they behave or even that they know enough of the songs and prayers to participate at least a little. The goal is that they acquire and practice skills for living in relationship with God every day.

Our task is to help them adopt praise, thanksgiving, confession and accepting forgiveness, listening for God, sharing our concerns with God, remembering what we know to be true and making commitments to live accordingly as skills for living every day.

That means our task is to help them grasp not just what we do in worship, but what it leads us to do every day. We need to help them see that just as they can thank God with songs and prayers in the sanctuary, they can go through every day with grateful hearts. Likewise, if they can confess and be forgiven in the sanctuary, they just might be able to do it in the back seat of the van, the locker room, or the lunch room. Over time the patterns they learn in the sanctuary can become the patterns of their lives. So we are not just inviting them to worship, we are rehearsing them into the Christian life. Not easy - but a worthy goal to ponder.

Blog Post from *Worshiping With Children*, Carolyn Brown, Charlottesville, VA



November 5, 2023 – All Saints’ Day Observed

Psalm 149; Revelation 7:9-17; Matthew 5:1-12

“Our True Hope” – Sermon Text: Matthew 5:1-12

– Rev. Jeremy Swem

In the midst of hardships, struggles, and persecution it is easy to lose hope and falsely believe that God has abandoned us. He has not. John in his Revelation provides us the sure and certain hope that our Savior brings us through all these things finally giving to us His victory.

November 12, 2023 – Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Psalm 17; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

“Last Day Hope” – Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

– Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

We learn from the Apostle Paul about Last Day realities, which mean for us present-day hope. These truths about that Day move us to encourage one another now as brothers and sisters in Christ.



November 19, 2023 – Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Psalm 146; Zephaniah 1:7-16; Matthew 25:14-30

“Good and Faithful Servants” – Sermon Text: Matthew 25:14-30

– Rev. Thomas Eggold

In Christ, God’s wrath has been satisfied and we have been liberated from sin and freed to serve; freed to use the talents God has given us; freed to be the people Christ died to create. And in Christ, the Master call us “good and faithful servants” as we carry out His work in the world.

November 26, 2023 – Twenty-sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Psalm 95:1-7a; Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Matthew 25:31-46

“Sheep and Goats” – Sermon Text: Matthew 25:32

– Rev. Shayne Jonker

The sheep go to the right, the goats to the left, but take note of the terms of separation. They are sorted on the basis of what they are, not what they do. And this is precisely what the apostle Paul means when he says that we are justified by God’s grace through faith in Christ apart from works of the law. Final Judgment is made not on the basis of what you did, but on the basis of what you are.

We pray for Homebound

friends: Caroline Barkow, Sally Beck, Judy Chumas, Shirley Cosgrove, Ginny Evans, Dorothy Ferguson, Audrey Glover, Maxine June, Phyllis Kurlowicz, Carol Leipzig, Carrol McCarty*, Nancy Miller, Dean Monck, Wilma Ritchie, Vic Schroeder, Marilyn Sible, Joyce Stafford, Darlene Surch, Carol Truhn, Ernie & Judi VanOrman

TV MINISTRY YOU CAN TRUST!

Access to Kalamazoo and Portage

Tuesday & Thursday **6 AM & 10 AM**
Sunday **6 AM 10AM**

Spiritual Channel 187

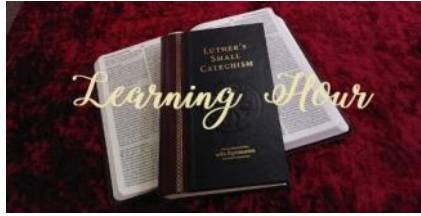
- 30-Minute Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod worship service
- Produced by Lutherans for the homebound, hospitalized...
- Includes the Gospel, Epistle, and Sermon by LCMS pastors
- Music by choirs, soloists, and small groups

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

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	ADVENT FAMILY WORKSHOP - ALLAN HALL	Thanksgiving Break	
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)



Planned for Thanksgiving Weekend

Sunday, November 26

During the Learning Hour in Allan Hall

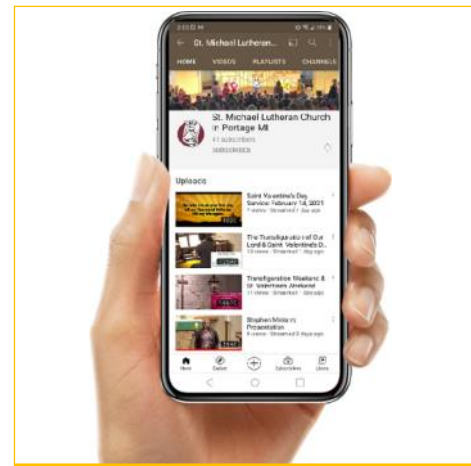
THIS EVENT WILL BE IN PLACE OF THE NORMAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES.

Research provides evidence of the enduring importance of intergenerational experiences for the formation of faith in the younger generations, as well as adults and the whole family.

Intergenerational learning provides a way to bring all ages and generations together to learn with and from each other, build community, share faith, pray, celebrate, and practice the Christian faith.

The key is that everyone is learning together—young and old, single and married, families with children and empty nest families. It involves the children, parents, grandparents, in a shared experience of the Christian faith. This creates new relationships among people of all ages, enhances their sense of belonging in the faith community, and increases participation in church life.

We want to help provide such moments during this busy season by giving you an opportunity to make a simple Nativity Ornament



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

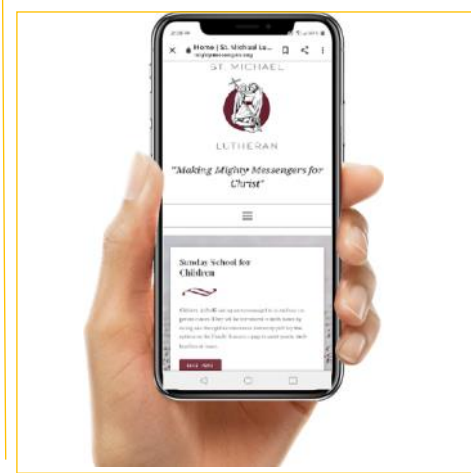
Find devotions, special event announcements and more:



@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI

mightymessengers.org

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



ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

**Reading Is Soooo
Delicious!**



BOOK FAIR

NOVEMBER 13 – 19, 2023

IN THE LIBRARY



OUR VENDOR: Lowry's Books, Three Rivers, MI

ON THE MENU

**Quality, family-friendly books,
including Christian titles**

Plan to visit!

- Before school: 7:30-8:30 am Nov. 13-17
- After school: 3:00-7:00 pm Nov. 13-15 and 3:00-4:00 pm Nov. 16-17
- Over the weekend: 6:00-7:00 pm Nov. 18 (after Lamplight), 9:30-11 am Nov. 19 (between services), 12:00-1:00 pm Nov. 19 (after second service)

**DON'T FORGET TO BUY A BOOK FOR A TEACHER
& HELP BUILD CLASSROOM LIBRARIES**

Volunteers Are Needed For This Event
If Interested Please Email library@mightymessengers.org



THE PRAYER OF FAITH

“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well? The Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous person is powerful and effective.” James 5:13-16

Essentially James is asking, “Is any among you afflicted?” This can mean anything, really: sickness, bereavement, disappointment, persecution, loss of health or property, etc. The word used for afflicted refers to suffering evil of any kind for any reason. God knows what you are going through, and he can remove the source of your sorrow. It doesn’t matter what form your sorrow takes. If you are afflicted, James says, the answer is prayer.

It is a privilege to go to God in prayer. Whatever you are struggling with – poor health, lost friends and family, lost property, disappointments, danger, death – only God truly understands and will be with you through any difficult time. Remember, though, that God’s presence comes in many forms. From a sense of peace while praying or when reading the Bible to a kind word from a friend or a hug from a family member, God comes to us in many and varied ways to let us know we are not alone.

James also says, “Is anyone happy?” This means to be merry, free from trouble, or cheerful. If so, he encourages, “Let them sing songs of praise.” When we are happy, we are to celebrate our peace of mind and joyful state. Not only does this express gratitude to God, but it also shows others the joy that living for God brings.

It is also important to pray and thank God when he allows a time of peace for us to recuperate and regenerate. It is important to learn about how to pray in the various seasons of life. As we do, our devotion grows and we more consistently rely on God to build his kingdom in our lives, the church, and the world.



James is not just imploring believers to pray for one another. He is also telling us to share our burdens with each another. Sometimes our prayer needs are visible and obvious. However, much of the time, others do not know what is going on in our lives and how we need prayer. This is why spending time regularly with other believers is so important. Building these relationships gives opportunity and connection that encourages sharing that can lead to prayer that heals.

At St. Michaels, we are blessed to have many prayer warriors! There are people willing to pray with you anytime and for any reason. They will pray for you while you are going through a difficult situation, and they will spend time with you to build a relationship that God uses to help get you through the especially tough times. Decide today to reach out to someone to have them pray with you. Or, maybe, simply begin a new connection with a simple “hello.” Either way, know that there are many in your church family ready to be used by God in powerful and effective ways in your life.

Blessings,

Virginia LeRick – Prayer Coordinator

REMEMBERING YOUR LOVED ONE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The holidays can be “hollow days” for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. As poet Edna St. Vincent Millay wrote, “the presence of that absence is everywhere” – especially for those experiencing their first Thanksgiving or Christmas after a death.



Thus, it can be helpful to ***begin now*** – before Advent and other traditions begin – to think about and plan for how you will deal with the holidays this year. Here are some suggestions from “*Experiencing Grief*,” a booklet in the Stephen Ministries series *Journeying through Grief*.

Anticipate that the holidays will probably be sad and emotional no matter what you do. That is okay. Do not allow yourself or others to pressure you to “be merry.” Instead, embrace Advent in all its fullness as a season of waiting.

Focus only on how to make it through this holiday. It doesn’t have to be like the previous ones. And whatever you do (or don’t) experience should not affect future ones. Set realistic expectations for yourself and allow this year to be unique.

Don’t be afraid to change some traditions. Forego potential stressors that you don’t feel up to doing, such as cooking a big Christmas dinner. This New Year’s Eve might be better staying in than going out.

Don’t be afraid to keep some traditions. You may find comfort and security in keeping certain traditions the same, especially if they remind you of your loved one. Despite the temptation, avoid “canceling” the holiday.

Get together with others who are grieving. This is not a good time to isolate yourself. Try to plan a social activity with others who understand what you are going through.

Plan a way to remember your loved one. There are many meaningful ways that you can allow the one who has died to be included in the holiday. You can put their favorite dish on the menu or play holiday songs that remind you of them or light a candle. Let family and friends know that it is okay for them to talk about your loved one.

It’s okay to smile and laugh – if you want to. It’s possible that you will feel conflicting emotions all at once. And while the holidays will never be the same, things can be different and still be happy.

Finally, do not forget Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers meet one-on-one with those needing confidential support and Christ-centered care. To request a Stephen Minister, contact a Stephen Leader such as Dana Naumann at 269-808-7832.

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



Learning is so
much fun in
Preschool



Operation Christmas Child is in full swing! Pick up a shoebox in the Communication Center between services and fill it with love for a child. Instructions are included inside every shoebox. Filled shoeboxes are due back to church by **November 12th**. Shoeboxes from St. Mike's will then be taken over to a local collection site where they will be put into shipping boxes and sent on their way. From there the boxes travel to regional collection sites (Chicago is the closest to us) and are prepared to be shipped throughout the world. It truly is an amazing journey! Not only the actual journey the boxes take to get to their final destinations, but the journey the children begin when they receive a box. There's the excitement of the gifts, but that continues with their personal journey of learning about Jesus. Lives are changed, families are changed. And all because YOU cared enough to pack a shoebox. Thank you!!

Empowerment Run Club for Kids

At Step Up Kids Run Club we:

- Teach kids empowerment tools through running games
- Create spaces where kids of all fitness levels can have fun being active
- Introduce growth mindset ideas that can help kids succeed in all areas of life

CLASS DETAILS:

- Mondays, Nov 13 - Dec 18 (no class Dec 4)
- 6 pm - 7 pm
- Ages 7 - 12
- St Michael Lutheran School Gym
7211 Oakland Dr, Portage, MI
- Cost: \$65/child

Scan for
more info &
registration



www.StepUpKidsRunClub.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*



LAMPLIGHT



+
Sola Gratia
GRACE ALONE
+
Sola Fide
FAITH ALONE
+
Sola Scriptura
SCRIPTURE ALONE



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



NOVEMBER 8, 2023 Lansing, MI

Schedule

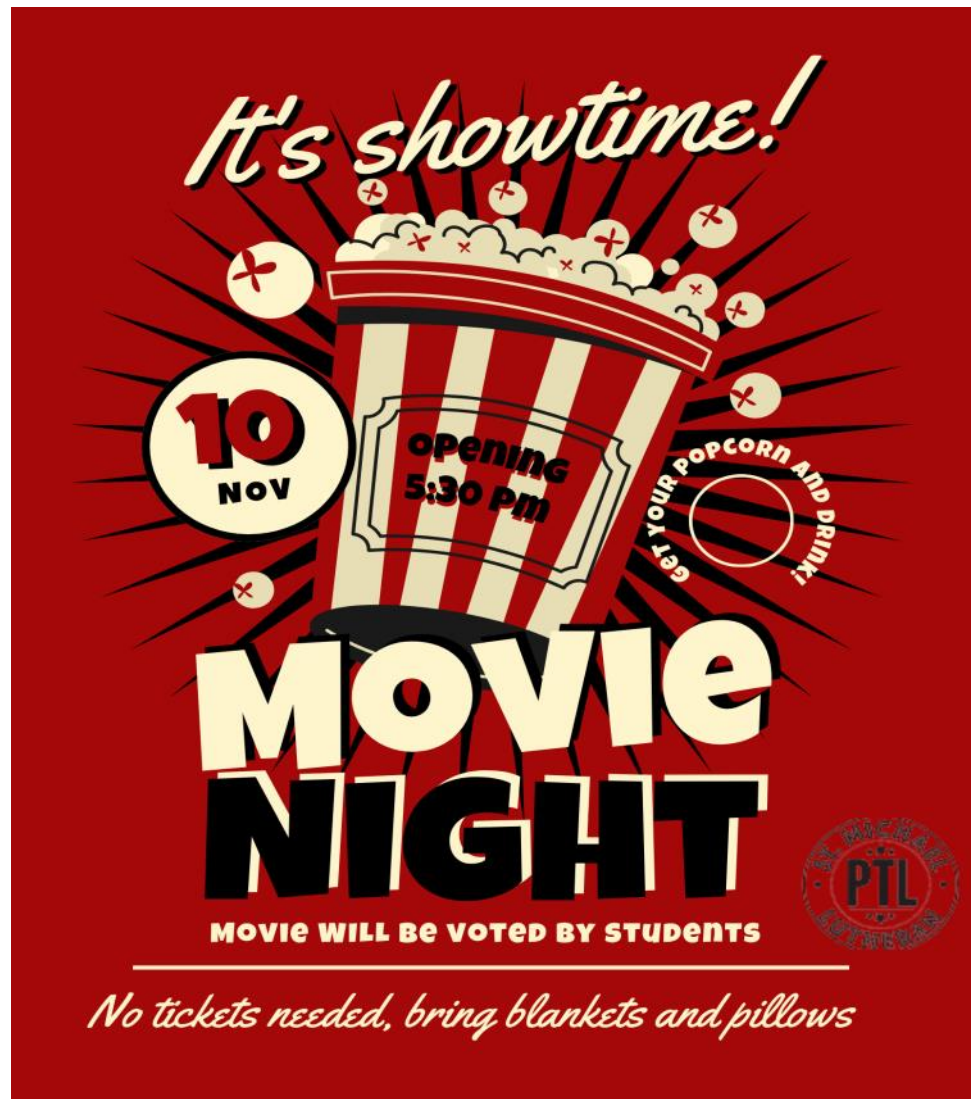
11:00 am – Rally at Capitol

12:00 pm – Michigan March for Life

A bus ride will be available at 8AM from 1st Assembly of God Church, (5550 Oakland Dr, Portage, MI 49024). The cost is \$15 adult / \$10 student / Max family plan \$50 and scholarships available. Bring a sack lunch & drink.

Register by calling Rob Karrer at 269-599-4954 or 269-548-7132, or go to kazoortl.org/

If you have questions, reach out to Bill/Carolyn Burns.



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



At the October Youth Group a quick game — called “grab the pool stick before it falls”— that Heather was leading with several of the St. Michael youth after their quick devotion together.

The St. Michael Youth Group also played a fun games lead by a few of the older youth in the congregation. Pizza and snacks were enjoyed by all.

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

SUNDAY EVENINGS
A variety of fun together!



Make plans to enjoy dinner with us...

*On-the-go! **Sunday, November 19th***

Appetizers -Main Course - Dessert

Fun & Games with friends

Tell us if you plan to attend, so we know how many we are preparing for.

Church Office 269-327-7832

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.

Learning to acknowledge God's blessings is the beginning step of faithful management of His gifts

Greg and Mike were meeting for lunch. Greg was dreading this meeting because he was used to Mike always complaining about how hard his life is. On this particular day, Greg was surprised. Mike was telling the story of how he and his wife had recently decided that they should get their estate plan in place. The process began as Mike and his wife met with their LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor. Mike was not really a money guy. He was not the guy who could quickly offer up an estimate of the total net worth of his estate. So, when the LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor asked the couple to fill out a Lifetime Plan for Giving survey, which included many things, but especially an inventory of financial assets, Mike was shocked to see the actual dollar value of his estate.

Mike said to Greg, "All my life I have been comparing myself to others, always believing that everyone else is more blessed than I. I am not a billionaire, but I was actually quite overwhelmed to see the combined value of our house, our cottage, our paid-up life insurance and our retirement accounts. I usually just look at things one at a time. Combined together, I realize that I have been underestimating what God has been doing in our lives. Now I am asking the question, 'I wonder what God wants us to do with all of this?' I have this feeling that it includes more than just inheritance to the kids, as they are all doing quite well."

Greg responded, "Mike this is awesome. With your new-found perspective, I think your estate planning is going to be a lot of fun. Are you thinking about leaving a gift to ministry?"

Mike responded, "I sure am. Every time I see the kids from our Lutheran School in worship, I am so glad they are learning about Jesus. I want to help provide scholarships so more kids can come in the future."

Are you recognizing God's abundance? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE



IN THE PARKING LOT?

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

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

WHAT CANNOT GO IN THE BIN?

· Plastic · Metal · Trash · Glass · Cardboard

WHAT CAN GO IN THE BIN?

- Newsprint
- Catalogs/Magazines
- Junk Mail · Phone Books
- Office/School paper
- Hard and soft cover books
- Paperboard (Grocery Item boxes)
- Standard staples & paperclips are ok
- Shredded paper



Langeland Family Funeral Homes
622 South Burdick Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Candlelight Holiday Memorial Ceremony

November 12, 2023
2:00pm - 3:00pm

Please Join Us at our 9th Street Location:
3926 S. 9th St. Kalamazoo, MI 49009

THERE IS NO ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIRED AND THERE WILL BE LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PRESENTATION WILL BE A SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR VETERANS.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13
6:30 PM

craft night

for grown-ups

*Join friends in Allan Hall
to share inspiration & snacks...*

While crafting a variety of projects available to bless homebound friends during holidays.



LOOKING FOR COOKIE BAKERS!! We hope to host a **COOKE SALE** in December. More details to come!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Join us for an...
*Advent by Candlelight
Celebration*



3-5 PM
Sunday, December 3rd

SINGING PERFORMANCES

UPCOMING

*You're
Invited...*



DEC 12 1 PM & 6:30 PM
UPPER EL
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT

DEC 19 1 PM & 6:30 PM
LOWER EL
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT

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*



We hope you were able to enjoy the display of quilts on the pews this past month and maybe even picked out your favorites. Thanks to you, St. Michaels was able to send 36 bed quilts to Lutheran World Relief, along with 34 quilts and 58 pillowcases to Children & Family Services! Additionally, every month Alternatives of Kalamazoo (the local pregnancy center) received a minimum of 10 receiving blankets, burp cloths and hand mitts. While a small group of women do the physical work of planning, cutting, sewing, and ironing, none of it would happen without contributions from the congregation. So thank you for again supporting this ministry with your donations of clean queen or king sheets, 100% cotton fabric and cash. As these quilts are distributed, please pray that the recipients will come to know Jesus and feel His arms around them as they snuggle in the warmth of a quilt.

Lutheran World Relief Gathering a Success!

Our annual Lutheran World Relief collection resulted in a total of 540 boxes from at least 25 various churches in Southwest Michigan. This was done in spite of the rain this year!

Thanks to receiving a number of grants from **Thrivent Financial**, St Michael Church and School was able to donate Baby Care Kits, School Bags, Hygiene Kits, and Quilts. These were in 161 of the boxes on the trailer. The totals received from all the churches were:

Quilts:	166 boxes	School Bags:	153 boxes
Hygiene Kits:	124 boxes	Baby Care Kits:	89 boxes
Sewing Kits:	8 boxes		

I want to extend sincere thanks to all of the year-long efforts of Michele Ryan in collecting, storing, organizing, and assembly of the donations. She has led this effort for 20 years now! Also, thank you to all of those wonderful volunteers who helped in some way to sew, knit, assemble, package, load, and deliver all of the boxes. We couldn't do this without all of you!

Jan Jett

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/>

SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

11 Months

11/1/2022 - 9/30/2023

Church Revenue	\$ 744,072
School Revenue	\$ <u>1,115,504</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 1,859,576
Total Expenses	\$ <u>1,843,087</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 16,489
Expense Budget	\$ 1,822,267
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 37,308
Working Cash Balance	\$ 45,960
Mortgage Balance	\$ 663,237

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$654,352
Building Contingency	\$ 17,874
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 13,229
Sunday School	\$ 37
Youth Donations	\$ 19,796
Youth Accounts	\$ 4,525
Good Samaritan	\$ 5,253
Memorials	\$ 11,436
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 7,819
Quilting	\$ 1,974
POBLO South Asian Ministry	\$ 3,596
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 585
School Improvements	\$ 31,872
Tuition Assistance	\$ 56,244
School Music	\$ 785
Flower Fund	\$ 4,305
CFK Mission Expansion	\$ 88,613
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 3,180
Faith Budget	\$ 371

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

August '23 Avg. 277
Sept '23 Avg. 287
October '23 Avg. 327

Annual Avg. 2021 265
Annual Avg. 2022 295
Annual Avg. 2023 304

Welcome!

We believe that the more you study the Bible and encounter God in prayer, the more you learn to trust Him with all you have. Carve out time in your day to nurture your relationship with God and spend time encouraging others.

We believe the best way to follow Jesus is through forming community and sharing our faith with a heart of generosity, not just with money and time, but with our love, appreciation, praise and encouragement.



STAFF:

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann
naumann@mightymessengers.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Daniel Maske
dmaske@mightymessengers.org

ASSISTANT PASTOR

Rev. Jason Toman
jtoman@mightymessengers.org

BUSINESS & FINANCE MANAGER

Jay Koski
jkoski@mightymessengers.org

CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND CHILD MINISTRY COORDINATOR

RECORDING SECRETARY
Tammy Songer
tsonger@mightymessengers.org

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Greg Johnson
gjohnson@mightymessengers.org

SCHOOL SECRETARY

Sharon Robinson

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Brenda Heintz

FIRST GRADE TEACHER

Maralyse Worm

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

Annie Hecht

THIRD GRADE TEACHER

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

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Carolyn Bertrand

ORGANIST

Keith Eiser

MORNING SONG DIRECTOR

Jane Connon

SEXTONS

Brian Chapman
Matthew Wright

VOLUNTEERS:

PRESIDENT

Mark Ruesch

VICE PRESIDENT

Rob Kuhlmann

TREASURER

Kristi Rudowske

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTIES

Ryan Nelson, Director
Mark Vickery, Assistant Director

BOARD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD & SCHOOL MINISTRIES

Mike Grotelueschen, Director
Matt Colby, Assistant Director

BOARD OF SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Angie Heimlich, Director
Lindsey Luma, Assistant Director

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Vacant, Director

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Dar Swift

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Lisa Robert

BOARD OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

Heather Bigelow, Director
Cindy Hunter, Assistant Director

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

Jerry Kuss, Jeff Burnett,
Heather Bigelow

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

Matt Heintz, Director
Greg Wedel, Assistant Director

ALTAR GUILD

Kristi Rudowske, Linda Fry

LECTORS

Virginia Hetrick, Jan Chilcott

PRAYER MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Barbara Schubert, Virginia Hetrick

USHERS

Mike Minger - Early Service
Jesse Hogue - Late Service

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS

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

STEPHEN MINISTERS

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

BOARD OF EVANGELISM & MISSIONS

Valerian Kwigizile, Director
Kathie Seufert, Assistant Director

GREETERS

Arlene Groll, Mark & Jan Chilcott

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

Kristen Shook, Director
Deb Hackett, Assistant Director

ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Jesse Hogue

CRADLE ROLL

Jan Jett

BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Vacant, Director
Judy Schroeder, Assistant Director

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Arla Mayhew

LWML

Sandy Maya

SOFTBALL

Shannon Miskovich

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Todd Foster, Dave Johnson, Julie Vickery,
Brad Hunter, Rick Jacobs