

THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

April 2024

Volume 63, Number 4



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

“CHRIST, OUR LIFE”

A very important thing to appreciate about Jesus is that His experiences and accomplishments during His earthly ministry were never purely for His own sake. They were for our sake. Jesus said that He came into this world not to be served by us but to serve us (see Matthew 20:28, etc.). Yes, He was obedient to the will of His Heavenly Father, but the will of His Father was our salvation – “for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). That mean that Jesus was born for us; He was circumcised for us; He lived a perfect life for us; He was baptized for us; He suffered for us; He was crucified for us; He was buried for us; He rose again from the dead for us, and He ascended into heaven for us.

This is why Jesus says “because I live, you also will live” (John 14:19). This is why St. Paul says we are “in Christ” (e.g., 1 Corinthians 15:22; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 1:1; etc.) such that the benefits of His perfect life, death, and resurrection have been applied to us by faith. His crucifixion, burial, and resurrection became ours in our baptism into Christ (see Romans 6). Now that we are “in Christ,” not only do we benefit from all that He has accomplished on our behalf, but we also live a new life in Him. St. Paul describes it like this: “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the

Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

During the seven week Easter season that is before us, we will be celebrating both the resurrection of Jesus and our own resurrection in Him. The Bible calls our conversion “the first resurrection” (Revelation 20:5-6), because we go from being “dead in sin” to being “alive in Christ” when we believe in Him and apprehend His grace by faith (see Ephesians 2:1-10). Our other resurrection will be quite literally like Jesus’ resurrection for He has promised that after we die He will raise our dead body from the grave on the last day (see John 5:25-29) and give us a new resurrected body that is “like unto His glorious body” (Philippians 3:21). So it is, then, that when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus we’re not only celebrating His resurrection but also our own in Him. **Christ is our life!** St. Paul says it well: “If then you were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When **Christ, our life**, is revealed, then you will also be revealed with Him in glory” (Colossians 3:1-4).

Happy Easter!



“Christ, Our Life” + Easter Season + 2024

Date	Calendar	Theme	First Scripture	Epistle	Gospel/Text
3-31	Easter 1	<i>Christ, Our Life: Our Passover</i>	Exodus 15:1-11	1 Corinthians 5:6b-8	John 20:1-18
4-6/7	Easter 2	<i>Christ, Our Life: Our Lord & God</i>	Acts 4:32–35	1 John 1:1—2:2	John 20:19–31
4-3/14	Easter 3	<i>Christ, Our Life: Our Peace</i>	Acts 3:11–21	1 John 3:1–7	Luke 24:36–49
4-20/21	Easter 4	<i>Christ, Our Life: Our Shepherd</i>	Acts 4:1–12	1 John 3:16–24	John 10:11–18
4-27/28	Easter 5	<i>Christ, Our Life: Our True Vine</i>	Acts 8:26–40	1 John 4:1–11	John 15:1–8
5-4/5	Easter 6	<i>Christ, Our Life: Our Joy</i>	Acts 10:34–48	1 John 5:1–8	John 15:9–17
5-11/12	Easter 7	<i>Christ, Our Life: Our Sanctity</i>	Acts 1:12–26	1 John 5:9–15	John 17:11b–19

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.



Praying together strengthens Our church and us.

The group for **Tuesday mornings** meet at 9:00 am in the prayer room.

Pray warriors are welcome to join together at 5:30pm on **Wednesdays** in the prayer room.

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? Contact the Church Office to share a few details, and we will be sure to let the Prayer Team know.



SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING: PHASE 1 REMODEL PLANS
SUNDAY, APRIL 7

In the Sanctuary following the late service

Men's Golf League: 2024 Season!

Practice round and schedule handouts at Pineview Golf Club on April 25th. Official start up May 2nd. Play will go on for twenty weeks, ending in September.

Please let Andy Allan (269-370-7052 or aallan@arvco.com) OR Jim Neumann (269-290-8442 or jneums1@charter.net) know by April 11th, if you would like to join, or make changes in your current team.

Looking forward to another fun year!



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



Confirmation students are learning about the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper in preparation for taking their first communion.

Jesus said, "Do not worry..." (Matthew 6:25)

Jesus says to His disciples. Don't worry... don't fret.

In the Greek language, Jesus is telling His disciples to not be "torn apart", or "torn in different directions." Just focus... stay the course... HOLD FAST. No matter what you see, keep going forward.

But what about when you can't see ahead? What about when the wind and waves are crashing down all about you? It is hopeless... just give up... just drown.

HOLD FAST... because Jesus is holding tight to you. No matter what, Jesus is holding fast to you.

I will never forget the time when I was throwing up in my family car as a very little boy. We were on a family trip, and I was sick as a dog.

All was lost.

And then my Dad gave me his t-shirt to wipe off my face. I am positive that my Daddy was very sick, and tired, and had a million things on his own mind.

But Daddy came back and helped me and told me that it was ALREADY okay. It was okay, because Dad was with me.

Jesus IS risen. Even during Lent, HE IS RISEN INDEED! You objectively HAVE NO WORRIES, because Jesus is alive now for you.

Hold fast.
Hallelujah!

Pastor Maske 

Living Vicariously

April 7, 2024 – Second Sunday of Easter

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

If the description of a favorite food makes your mouth water or if you feel someone else's joy as if it is your own, then you have lived vicariously. In a much, much, much greater way, the Christian life is *Living Vicariously* through the perfect life, death, and resurrection of our beautiful Savior, Jesus Christ!

Sermon Text: 1 John 1:1-4

Readings: Psalm 148; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

Resurrection Assurances

April 14, 2024 – Third Sunday of Easter

Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Because Jesus arose from the dead we have the greatest, the most important, assurances. These assurances give us tremendous peace.

Sermon Text: Luke 24:36-48

Readings: Psalm 4:1-8; 1 John 3:1-3; Luke 24:36-48

Our Good Shepherd

April 21, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Thomas Eggold

Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, came to call us by name. And He came to lay down His life for the sheep. And He came to seek and save the lost. And through the voice of our Good Shepherd we are brought back to the Father.

Sermon Text: John 10:14-15

Readings: Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Vine, Branches, and Fruit

April 28, 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Shayne Jonker

Jesus is the Vine, you are the branches, and the Father is the vinedresser. That is today's picture of your union with Christ through faith from the Gospel according to St. John. Joined to Jesus in faith you are alive and fruitful, as living branches joined to a living vine. Apart from Jesus, you are dead and fruitless.

Sermon Text: John 15:5

Readings: Psalm 150; 1 John 4:1-21; John 15:1-8



We remember to pray for Homebound friends:

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

TV MINISTRY YOU CAN TRUST!

Access for Kalamazoo and Portage

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

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

Where else can I find these programs?

- ◆ Download the Hope-Full Living app on your phone



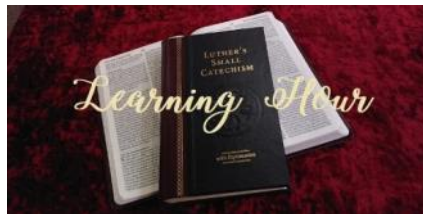
- ◆ Listen to Audio Only files at this worshipanew.org link [Audio files](#)

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

Marriage on the Rock - Emily Lauterbach class leader
- Music Room #114

Marriage doesn't have to be full of frustration and disappointment, you can have a passionate relationship that will stand the test of time.

From communication to money to sex, *Marriage on the Rock* is the best-selling resource that clearly deals with all the major issues a couple will encounter. Leading marriage authority Jimmy Evans discusses practical real-life challenges and offers easy to understand solutions even if you are the only one willing to work on the relationship.

Through this power-packed small group resource, Jimmy Evans will show you:

- Why no person can meet your deepest needs
- How to make marriage a top priority
- How to understand and meet your spouse's needs
- The different ways men and women communicate
- How to achieve maximum sexual pleasure
- Skills for raising great kids even in a blended family

Whether you've been married for years or just preparing for the journey, *Marriage on the Rock* is the essential resource that will transform your relationship. *Marriage on the Rock* can turn disillusioned, divorce-bound marriages into satisfying dream relationships.

Christianity, Cults & Religions - Rev. Vincent Iqbal class leader
- Naumann Room #230.

This is a well-researched introduction on cults and religions from a Christian viewpoint. It explains the basics of the Christian faith and the differences between Christianity and world religions and sects.



APRIL Youth Group Activities
Sunday morning Bible Study

4/14 - *Reflections of Easter* and time together with Pastor Maske

4/28 - EVERYONE COME for a **Temple Run!** - NOT A VIDEO GAME

A CRASH COURSE IN CHRISTIAN CARING

Galatians 6:2 -

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Caregiving is an immense burden. You're expected to meet someone else's needs, all while keeping normal life afloat. You feel weary, lonely, hopeless, and frazzled. Perhaps you wonder if anyone notices you as more attention is given to the person under your care.

When the road seems endless, God provides what we need for today. When we feel abandoned, His Word reminds us that we are not alone. When we face hard decisions, He offers wisdom and peace. When we're at the end of our rope, He soothes us with comfort and fills us with strength.

To help ease the burden of caregiving through Biblical principles, the following five Adult Sunday School classes will be presented in April.

The Fine Art of Listening and Conversation - *This session provides tips on really hearing what your family member or friend is saying. If you used to think you were a good listener but now realize you were listening to fix the problem or formulate a response, learn the art of listening to just hear what the person is saying. Learn to listen with your heart.*

Who and What is a Caregiver - *Caregivers can be spouses, partners, adult children, parents, other relatives (e.g., siblings, aunts, nieces/nephews, in-laws, grandchildren), friends, and neighbors. Anyone who is "going that extra mile" for a loved one, especially during a crisis in the other person's life, is a caregiver. This session helps to better understand the role of caregiver.*

What to Say and What Not to Say - *What do you say when you don't know what to say? Learn what can help to heal or might hurt another person.*

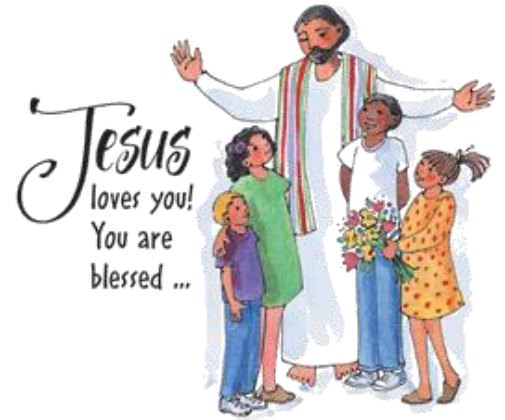
Being Assertive (Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say) - *Words are extremely powerful in personal relationships, so it is very important to think carefully before you speak. Your words and actions must be justified by careful evaluation of what the other person has said or done to ensure that you say what you mean and mean what you say.*

Building and Keeping Trust - *Trust is important in any relationship as it points to how much you can lean on another person. Without trust, insecurities and doubts can take over the relationship. Get tips on how to build and keep trust in your relationships.*

Looking forward to discussing these important subjects, as we learn to bear one another's burdens together. Come with questions!

Praise God! Join me in Allan Hall from 9:45-10:45 AM.

Virginia Hetrick - Prayer Coordinator



SHEPHERD GROUPS

Lay Minister	Family Names Start with	Family Names & include
Zachary Button 810-844-6870	A	Boelman
Harold DeFouw 269-569-6869	Bohren	Chadderdon
Rich Conklin 269-323-7416	Chilcott	D
Mel Schroeder 734-646-9652	E	Franzen
Dave Drzewiecki 616-560-2175	Frommann	G
Dave Johnson 269-599-2195	H	H
Bill Schinzer 269-366-5594	I	J
Ryan Bigelow 269-838-6062	Kahle	Lapekas
Mark Kahle 402-730-1914	Lausman	McNees
Howard McNees 269-720-3857	Messing	Nelson
Jeff Burnett 269-491-3700	Neumann	P
Andy Allan 269-370-7052	Q	Shook
Greg Wedel 312-961-4636	Shuler	Stolsky
Matt Heintz 269-290-8507	Sullivan	T
Arlan Wendzel 269-816-5632	U	Z

HAVE YOU SEEN THE
PAPER GATOR
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



Annual Student Loan Debt Luncheon



The Lay Ministers invite you to attend this special luncheon in the gymnasium on **Sunday, April 21** at 12:30 pm. The cost is \$15 per person.

The burden of student loan debt has been in the news a lot recently. The burden for young families can be tremendous. With your contributions, we can help our staff members with their student loan payments.

Reservations cards are in your mailbox and on a table in the Communication Center. You have the choice of pork or chicken as the entrée. Return your card to the church office or place it in one of the offering baskets in the church sanctuary. The entertainment will be a Barbershop Quartet from the Kalamazoo area, Boysen Blue. A nice treat for the whole family.



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

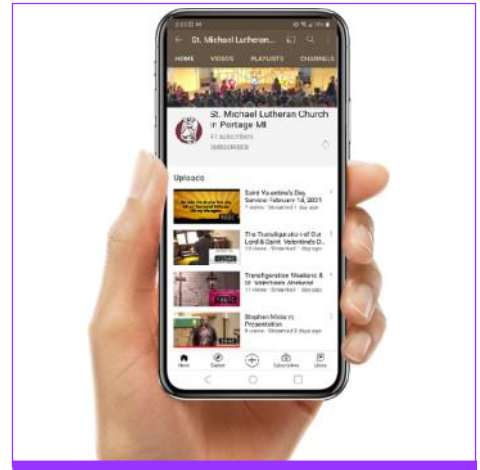
Please send to the Church Office (tsonger@mightmessengers.org): a picture of your Senior student, the name of the high school graduating from, and future college/field of study, or plans after high school **by May 24**.

For your calendars, we are planning on a graduation celebration service on June 2. *We hope your student will be joining us!* They are asked to wear their school cap and gown and process in with Pastors at the beginning of the 8:30 AM service. Sitting in the same area (north side front pews) that they would have on their confirmation day. Between the services, there will be a reception in the gym in honor of the seniors, celebrating their hard work.

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

A good gift plan can present solutions to challenging family dynamics.


Years ago, a husband and wife were meeting with their LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor. Both had been married before, as their spouses had been called home to Jesus. Each of them brought children into the relationship. The assets they brought were not equal. Urged by the advice of various people, they began considering a way in which they could isolate their assets from each other, creating multiple trusts. Complicating matters, because they truly loved each other, they wanted to provide for each other when the first of them was called home. They felt uncomfortable about such absolute separation of their assets if they truly were going to share their lives as “one flesh”, in keeping with the model of marriage from Genesis 1. They laid out a complicated stream of thoughts before the LCMS Gift Planning Counselor. After a lengthy conversation, the gift planning counselor noticed an interesting phenomenon about their assets relative to family. Coming into this marriage, one spouse had twice as many financial assets as the other. That same spouse with the greater assets also had twice as many children as the other spouse. The ratio made sense. If they combined their assets and equally divided them among all their children, each child would receive the same amount as if they had put in place a complicated legal set of trusts to separate their assets. The Gift Planning Counselor conveyed a message to their attorney, and they immersed from that attorney with a simple plan that made them feel content. The plan they created together also allowed them, together, to make some gifts to support ministry in the future. In addition, this plan did not foster an imposed separation between their children. Taking the time for extended conversation and prayer allowed this couple to discern the right thing to do, rather than pursuing plans that would be expensive, complicated, and less than satisfying. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor is available to meet with you in the same way.



STAY CONNECTED

YouTube  **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

Office Contacts:

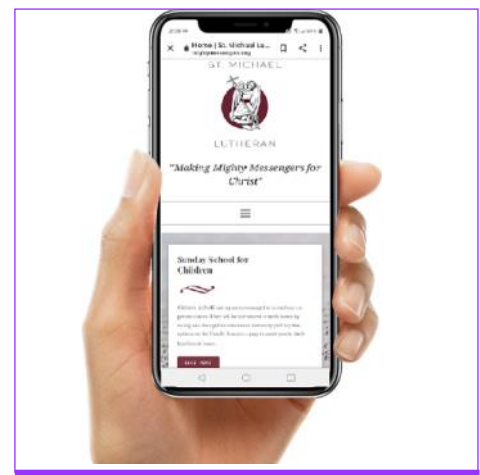
Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

mightymessengers.org

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



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

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024 1pm
MILHAM GOLF COURSE
4200 LOVERS LN, KALAMAZOO, MI 49001

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



LOVES KZOO

Dinner to Follow at Milham Park at 6pm

Jesusloveskzoo.org/golf-fundraiser/



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST FUNDRAISER DINNER AND WORSHIP NIGHT

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING OUR 10th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
6PM DINNER AND WORSHIP AT MILHAM PARK
607 E KILGORE KALAMAZOO, MI 49002

SPONSORSHIPS
SILENT AUCTIONS
Merchandise Sales

LOVES KZOO

Jesusloveskzoo.org

Kids in Lac Brochet Are Feeling the Love

Thanks to a very generous donation by the husband of one of our St. Michael Knitting Group (the one led by Mary Wright), several of the Dene children in Lac Brochet, Manitoba Canada received a beautifully hand knitted blanket, and experienced not only the warmth of the blanket but the warmth of Jesus' love with which they were made and mailed on up to them.

7 Mighty Messengers

for Christ from St. Michael have committed to traveling to the far north to put on a Bible school for the kids, as well as, Bible studies and other activities for teens and adults. They are Dana & Pastor Naumann; John & Ailene Buchtrup; Jim Bess; and two new members of the traveling team: Corrine Johnson and Zach Button. Travel and VBS curriculum planning are in the works.

Please pray for them and support them financially on this life-changing experience!



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



**1:30 PM
SATURDAY,
APRIL 13**

All Women Invited!

**This is a very easy game anyone can enjoy.
Bring a friend!**

***\$5 To Reserve Your Seat at the Table
SNACKS, GIVEAWAYS and
LOTS OF LAUGHTER!***

**Register before April 7 in Church Office,
or between Worship Services in Communication Center.**

The March 16th Women's Fellowship brunch was a success with twenty-six in attendance at Michelle's Restaurant. Tammy Songer shared the "Jellybean Gospel" as we continued our Easter celebrations. Watch for future Women's Fellowship opportunities where we can celebrate God's amazing works with members while enjoying food, fun and fellowship.



The spring rally for LWML Battle Creek Zone is Saturday, April 6 from 10:00 am. - 12:00 noon with a light lunch afterward. Come to St. Paul, 349 Capital Ave. NE in Battle Creek to learn about how your mite money is working here in the USA and around the world. Learn about the upcoming convention in Grand Rapids this summer. Enjoy fellowship and devotion with like-minded sisters in Christ. All are welcome. See you there.



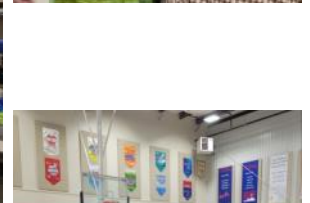
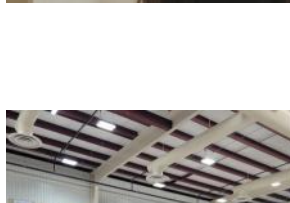
A special thank you goes out to

- Life Skills
- VBS & Co.
- Lay Ministers
- Quilters
- Fellowship Board
- Chilcott Bible Study Group

Thank you for making our Wednesday night Lenten Meals possible. The food, fellowship and the desserts were amazing and appreciated by all.

In the works....

The Fellowship Board members are discussing plans to hold a Craft Faire in the Fall of 2025.... Yes, we are planning a year out. Before we get too far ahead of ourselves, we need to determine if there is an interest to push forward with this plan. Please let us know if you would be interested in participating as a Vendor in such an event. As a Vendor, you would have an opportunity to have a booth to sell your crafts, baked goods etc. Please let us know by the end of April 2024, if you are interested so we can begin planning. Contact Diane Gibson, Judy Schroeder, or the Church Office, if you would like to participate or have any questions.



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*

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE!

Women’s Fellowship is looking for a fun-loving individual to lead the charge. This person is somebody who enjoys people and helping to coordinate the various events that Women Fellowship is known for. This would include the Christmas Cookie Sale along with occasional brunches, crafts, and holiday events throughout the year. Please reach out to Judy Schroeder or Diane Gibson, if you are willing or have questions about becoming more involved in the planning activities for the women of the church.



Lutheran
World
Relief

**BATH TOWEL
BAR SOAP &
T-SHIRT Drive**

Regular-size, dark colored NEW or GENTLY USED Bath Towels are a must-have for the personal care kits to be bundled up!

Now accepting donations of BAR SOAP. It is preferred to have a deoderant like Dial. 8 to 9 ounces is needed for each kit prepared.

The LWR committee is collecting T-SHIRTS in an effort to reduce the expenses associated with preparing layette kits. Gently used adult t-shirts size medium to XXL will be made into diapers. The t-shirts can be any color and can be printed or plain. Hundreds are needed, so please clean out your extras and place them in the cedar chest in the Communication Center.

Calling for all persons interested in sewing to let us know of your availability!! If you have questions or would like to help with these projects, contact Michele Ryan at 269 649-1387.

The mission grant proposal of St. Michael Lutheran Church to LWML Michigan District has been approved to appear on the ballot of this Summer's LWML convention. "Afghan Refugee Ministry" is among 20 proposals to be offered for consideration by Lutheran Women in Mission voters to fulfill an approved grant goal of \$300,000.00. Top vote receivers will be announced June 29.

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/>

FEBUARY FINANCIALS

4 Months

11/1/2023 - 2/29/2024

Church Revenue	\$	281,291
School Revenue	\$	<u>432,287</u>
Total Revenue	\$	713,579
Total Expenses	\$	<u>686,423</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$	(27,156)
Expense Budget	\$	707,021
Under/(Over) Budget	\$	(26,978)
Working Cash Balance	\$	56,627
Mortgage Balance	\$	637,811

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$	691,908
Building Contingency	\$	20,764
Parking Lot Fund	\$	15,000
HVAC	\$	31,853
Technology Refresh	\$	9,885
Sunday School	\$	1,073
Youth Donations	\$	21,667
Youth Accounts	\$	4,525
Good Samaritan	\$	3,090
Memorials	\$	13,070
Afghan Ministry	\$	3,596
Student Debt Fund	\$	450
Ballet Fund	\$	771
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$	10,038
Luth Medical Emerg Fund	\$	250
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$	3,123
Quilting	\$	184
Flower Fund	\$	5,779
Church Worker Scholarship	\$	585
School Improvements	\$	25,332
Tuition Assistance	\$	50,717
School Music	\$	759
School Sports	\$	(372)
Mis School Funds (PTL, etc)	\$	36,716
Faith Budget	\$	-
CFK Mission Expansion	\$	82,760

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Annual Avg. 2023	327
January '24 Avg.	378
February '24 Avg.	297
March '24 Avg.	382

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
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ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Daniel Maske
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ASSISTANT PASTOR

Rev. Jason Toman
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BUSINESS & FINANCE MANAGER

Jay Koski
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CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND CHILD MINISTRY COORDINATOR

RECORDING SECRETARY
Tammy Songer
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SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Greg Johnson
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SCHOOL SECRETARY

Sharon Robinson

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Brenda Heintz

FIRST GRADE TEACHER

Maralyse Worm

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

Annie Hecht

THIRD GRADE TEACHER

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
Vacant, Assistant Director

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Dan Marshall, Director

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Vacant, Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vacant, Chairman

BOARD OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

Vacant, Director
Vacant, 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
Nonie Knight, Assistant Director

ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Jesse Hogue

CRADLE ROLL

Jan Jett

LIFE SKILLS CLASSES

Mary Wright

BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Diane Gibson, Director
Judy Schroeder, Assistant Director

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP / LWML

Arla Mayhew

SPORTS MINISTRY

Shannon Miskovich

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

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