



# THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

May 2024

Volume 63, Number 5



Proverbs 31:26 *"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."*

Proverbs 31:31 *"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."*

Isaiah 66:13 *"As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you."*



Rev. Dr. Edward and nurse practitioner, Monica Naumann (*a missionary whom we support and pastor in Brookfield, IL*) and his brother Rev. Gordon and deaconess Marta Naumann (*an LCMS pastor in Hazelton, PA*). The fifteen children are the combined total of the two families.

## THE SPIRIT OF MAY

As we enter into the month of May, we're entering into a time that can be just as busy and eventful as "the holidays" that come at the end of the year. For example, the month of May may be a time for a wedding (or a wedding anniversary) celebration. May brings many graduation celebrations. We'll be celebrating our St. Michael Lutheran School 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates on May 28 (at 7:00 pm), and May 23 is graduation for Portage Northern High School and May 31 for Portage Central High School. While WMU had spring commencement already in April, several colleges and universities hold theirs in May, including our Concordia University Ann Arbor on May 4. May includes Memorial Day, commemorating those who sacrificed their lives in service of our country, and that weekend also tends to celebrate the unofficial beginning of summer when it's safe to put in your garden and/or your boat dock and begin celebrating the great outdoors.

May, of course, is also the month for Mother's Day (May 12 this year) when we express our love, thanks, and appreciation for our moms, including our mother-in-law. Here at St. Michael, the third Sunday in May is historically when we have our Confirmation Day (at the 11:00 am service). That morning, ten young people (who have spent at least three years in preparation) will be affirming the Christian Faith into which they were baptized and making public promises of life-long faithfulness to God. As it works out in the liturgical calendar this year (with the early date we had for Easter) the Day of Pentecost also falls in the month of May and coincides with our Confirmation Day. So clearly there is a lot to celebrate in this month of May, and that's not to mention any additional celebrations in your own family like birthdays, baby showers, and family reunions.

Could there possibly be anything that might bring all these various celebrations together into a unified whole? I think we could find that in the person of God, the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. On the Day of Pentecost (which comes 50 days after Easter), we celebrate the fact that the Holy Spirit came upon "all flesh" (Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:17) and that ever since then all believers in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord have the Holy Spirit indwelling them, making their bodies "a temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:19),

and likewise, giving birth to the Church of Jesus Christ, which St. Paul writes is also God's "holy temple" (1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and Ephesians 2:18-22).

So how might the Holy Spirit be involved in all these May celebrations? First of all, if May is a month for matrimony, we can acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit in a good Christian marriage as the essential tie that binds the couple together so that their union would not be "easily broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12). If May is a month for academic graduations, we can recognize that "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight" (Proverbs 9:10). Education at its best, is the pursuit and inculcation of the truth, and our Lord Jesus called the Holy Spirit "the Spirit of truth" and said that He would lead us "into all truth" (John 14:17; 16:13). This would, of course, also include Christian education (as we say at St. Michael Lutheran School, "*Christian Education with Christ at the Heart*") and all the discipling that goes on by both parents and pastors together in preparing young people for the Rite of Confirmation.

How about Mother's Day - what does it have to do with the Holy Spirit? Given that within the Trinity, we have God the Father and God the Son, it would make sense that the Holy Spirit is the Mother. But the Bible doesn't speak this way. Jesus used masculine pronouns for the Holy Spirit, not because the Holy Spirit is "male," as such, but to emphasize that the Holy Spirit is a person and not merely a power or a force (that's why it's not part of Christian liturgy to say, "The force be with you!"). The reality is, the Holy Spirit is a spirit (even as is God the Father), such that He doesn't have a human body like Jesus does. He can take on a bodily form if desired, like when at Jesus' baptism He was in the form of a dove. But the only Person within the divine Trinity that has a human/male body is Jesus. But having said that, there are characteristics of a godly mother that are derived from the Holy Spirit. For example, Jesus called the Holy Spirit the *paracletos*, a difficult to translate Greek word that literally means the "called-beside-one." Consequently, its rendered into English as "Helper," "Advocate," "Counselor," and "Comforter." When you think about it, these are all apt descriptions of who our mother often has been to us, and perhaps

# WE ARE CALLED

to make disciples of *Jesus*

still is. Ideally, a mother comes beside her children to encourage them, exhort them, direct them and lead them as appropriate. Very often our mother was the one who taught us many practical things about life, and best of all, our mother may have been one who taught us about Jesus. He said that the Holy Spirit would “take what is Mine and declare it to you” (John 16:14-15) and in many instances God the Holy Spirit used our mothers to do just that.

Jesus assured His disciples that He would not leave them as orphans (John 14:18) because the Holy Spirit would come to them and be with them and in them. So even if our mother and father are no longer living, we are never really an orphan when we have God the Holy Spirit indwelling within us. He brings us into God’s forever family, and makes us His beloved children. As St. Paul put it, “you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons... The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:15-16). So happy Mother’s Day, blessed Pentecost, and may you all have a wonderful celebration of this merry, merry month of May.

In Christ,



*Everyone is Invited!!*  
St. Michael 8th Grade  
GRADUATION  
Tuesday, May 28  
7:00 PM

## -- EVERYONE COUNTS!



**Pew Cards and Electronic "touch-free" method for registering your In-Person attendance at Worship Services** (You may want to download a QR Reader app to your smartphone to post information. Contact office if you need help.)

This also is a way to record a prayer request, or let us know you are doing well. Or indicate you wish to see a Lay Minister.

**For those watching online:** Please continue to comment and interact with friends, but also go to the “see more...” to download your worship format and click the link that allows you to complete the attendance form, letting us know you were a viewer.

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

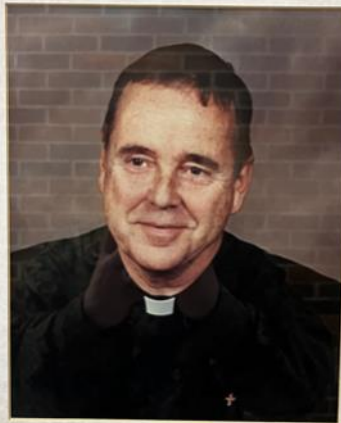
**GIVE** of ourselves to others in loving Christian service and evangelistic witness within the congregation and beyond it to our local community and world.

# 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*



Rev. James Poerschke  
1960 - 1963

At 88 years of age, Rev. James P. Poerschke entered paradise on April 2, 2024. He was the founding pastor of St. Michael, Portage. A military burial took place this morning at Riverside National Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at Hephatha Lutheran Church, Anaheim, CA at a later date. Cards may be sent to Janet and family (John & David) - 525 S. Anaheim Hills Rd. Apt. B206, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807. Please keep Janet and family in your prayers.

Our first pastor here at St Michael Lutheran Church, died on April 2. He served as a US Navy Chaplain and loved his Lord Jesus Christ.

Chaplain Poerschke hated war. It may seem incongruous to consider that a chaplain or any warfighter would hate war... yet this is the worst part about being not just a chaplain, but a Christian:

This world is bad. Struggle is our daily bread, and it often hurts just to make it to the end of the day.

Chaplain Poerschke knew daily struggle intimately as a Chaplain, and so do you. Life can be downright hard at times. We are constantly at war, both against outside forces, and within our own homes and hearts.

Life is very hard.

President Abraham Lincoln, said this during the midst of the Civil War: "Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away."

Fondly, fervently, and with all hope we hold to Christ, our peace.

Peace is what we have and hold, now and forevermore.

May we not only pray for peace, but know that we now have the very peace of God, even that peace that goes beyond understanding.

You ARE at peace with God. Amen.

Pastor Maske 

# ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

## GOLF OUTING

### MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024

All Proceeds Support The Tuition-Assistance Fund

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration begins**
- 8-9:00 a.m. Driving Range Warm-Up
- 2:00 p.m. **Awards and Prizes, Luncheon** (with cash bar)



#### EVENT PRIZES

- Longest Drive (Men/Women)
- Closest to Pin (Men or Women)
- Putting Contest (3 tries for \$5)
- Mulligans for Sale (\$5 each)



### Pine View Golf Club

52065 Pulver Road, Three Rivers, MI

*Experience Michigan golf at its finest! Join us for a beautiful round featuring challenging holes and picturesque scenery. The course is lined with trees and gently rolling, plays up to 6409 yards, par 72 with a slope of 121.*

### FOUR-PERSON SCRAMBLE MEN AND/OR WOMEN

9:00 AM SHOTGUN START

**\$100** per person

#### *Can't golf?*

THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR YOU TO BE INVOLVED AND SUPPORTIVE! JOIN US AS A SPONSOR, DONATE A PRIZE, SPONSOR A GOLFER OR BE A VOLUNTEER !

**REGISTER ONLINE AT: [MIGHTYMESSENERS.ORG/GOLF-OUTING/](https://mightymessengers.org/golf-outing/)**

#### **\$1,000 EAGLE SPONSOR:**

INCLUDES A GOLF FOURSOME, SPONSOR SIGNAGE AT THE TEE, SPECIAL RECOGNITION IN THE PROGRAM, AND AT THE LUNCHEON CEREMONIES.

#### **\$500 BIRDIE SPONSOR:**

INCLUDES A GOLFER SPONSOR, SPONSOR SIGNAGE AT THE TEE, SPECIAL RECOGNITION IN THE PROGRAM, AND AT THE LUNCHEON CEREMONIES.

#### REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 15

#### **\$250 CART SPONSOR:**

YOUR BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL NAME WILL BE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON ALL GOLF CARTS AND ALSO LISTED IN THE PROGRAM (ONLY TWO SPONSORS WILL HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY)

#### **\$125 HOLE SPONSOR:**

YOUR BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL NAME WILL BE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON A SIGN AT A TEE AND LISTED IN THE PROGRAM.

#### **\$100 GOLFER SPONSOR:**

SPONSOR SOMEONE TO PLAY GOLF IN THE EVENT, AS YOUR SUBSTITUTE OR AS YOUR GUEST.

# REGISTER TODAY!

## To Reserve Your Spot



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

List Additional Team Members Below (even if they are submitting their own registration fees):

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_



_____	\$ 1,000	Eagle Sponsor
_____	\$ 500	Birdie Sponsor
_____	\$ 100	Player (with lunch)
_____	\$ 25	Luncheon only
_____	\$ 250	Cart Sponsorship
_____	\$ 125	Hole Sponsorship
_____	\$ 100	Sponsor A Golfer
_____	<b>Total Due</b>	

# MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024

All Proceeds Support The St. Michael Lutheran School  
Tuition-Assistance Fund

**Make check payable to:**  
St. Michael Lutheran School

Pay online at:  
[mightymessengers.org](http://mightymessengers.org)

Church: 269-327-7832 School: 269-327-0512  
Tax ID - #38 - 6176071

Questions? Contact A Golf Committee  
Member: Dan Smodic, Dave Johnson,  
Harold DeFouw, Arlan Wendzel, Greg  
Johnson, Jay Koski, Pastor Naumann  
or call the Church Office



**REGISTER ONLINE AT: MIGHTYMESSENERS.ORG/GOLF-OUTING**

**When You Feel Overwhelmed**

**May 5, 2024 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Rev. Paul Shoemaker**

All of us have been overwhelmed by life's circumstances beyond our control. St. John reminds us that we have "the victory that has overcome the world – our faith." Celebrate that victory with us on Worship Anew.

**Sermon Text: 1 John 5:1-8**

**Readings: Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17**

**Ascended but not Gone**

**May 12, 2024 – Ascension of Our Lord (Observed)**

**Rev. William Mueller**

Ascension Day is an often forgotten church holiday. It really shouldn't be. It is the culmination of all that our Lord Jesus came to earth to accomplish. Even though He is now ascended, He has not departed from us. In fact, He has given us a joy-filled mission to reach and share.

**Sermon Text: Luke 24:44-53**

**Readings: Psalm 47; Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53**

**I Will**

**May 19, 2024 – Pentecost Sunday**

**Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, Jr.**

Ezekiel 37 describes the human reality of being dried up and worn out. We experience this as individuals and even as churches. In this text God declares, "I Will." God's explicit promise to us this Pentecost day: "I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live.

**Sermon Text: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**Readings: Psalm 139:1-12; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

**When the Darkness Hides God**

**May 26, 2024 – Holy Trinity Sunday Rev.**

**Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer**

Do you experience those dark times when God seemingly fails to show up in our lives? Understanding the true identity of our great Triune God will bless us with right understanding, attitudes, and actions when the darkness hides God.

**Sermon Text: Isaiah 6:1-8**

**Readings: Psalm 29; Isaiah 6:1-8; John 3:1-17**



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](http://worshipanew.org) link [Audio files](#)

**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, Darlene Surch, Ernie & Judi VanOrman, Sharon White

# 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*

New Members  
Received April 21, 2024

**Kelly Cowgill & David\*  
Leilani, Levi**  
(Transfer from Trinity, Paw Paw)  
269-806-0976  
queensinderella@hotmail.com  
(mailbox #130)  
37031 47th Avenue Paw Paw, MI 49079

**Mick Hornev  
Sophie, Amelia**  
(Transfer from St. Mark, Battle Creek)  
269-963-0883  
mhornev@gmail.com  
(mailbox #217)  
7555 Whispering Brook Dr Apt B11  
Portage, MI 49024

**Duane & Deborah Nelson**  
(Transfer from Trinity, Paw Paw)  
269-657-2063 dewepaw@msn.com  
(mailbox #129) dylansdraama@msn.com  
43543 Red Arrow Hwy Paw Paw, MI 49079

**Scott & Kimberly Pugsley  
Sophia**  
(Transfer from Trinity, Paw Paw)  
269-217-5719 spugsley01@comcast.net  
269-217-5718 pugsleykim@gmail.com  
(mailbox #226)  
64416 Windrose Way Lawton, MI 49065

**Paul & Lucyann Spencer  
Gabriel**  
(Affirmation of Faith)  
616-437-4937 volleydad17@gmail.com  
616-212-9695 lucyann.cc@gmail.com  
(mailbox #151)  
1028 Odell Farm Lane Vicksburg, MI  
49097

**Jacob & Kelsey Steele  
Charlotte, Roselyn**  
(Affirmation of Faith)  
269-501-2389 jsteele2923@yahoo.com  
269-267-8229 kelseyksteele@gmail.com  
(mailbox #136)  
475 10th Street Plainwell, MI 49080

**Lacy White  
Greysen**  
(Affirmation of Faith)  
936-332-4955  
lacywhite2014@yahoo.com  
(mailbox #360)  
11779 E U Avenue Vicksburg, MI 49097



Sophia Alana Puglsey  
Concetta Leona Kern

March 30, 2024

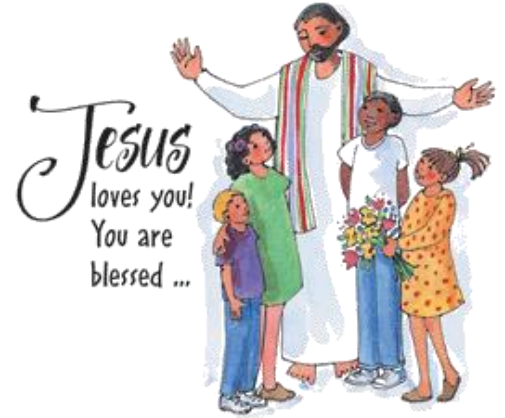




**Sunday, May 19, 2023**  
**at 11:00 AM**

Oral exam will be held  
 Wednesday, May 15 at 6:00 pm  
 The congregation is invited.

*A reception to  
 follow for  
 student families.*



**SHEPHERD GROUPS**

*Please keep these students and their  
 family in your prayers:*

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jillian Kay Colby         | Jace Todd Luma              |
| Grayson Glen Michael Cole | Nicholas Richard Mulholland |
| Owen Paul Heimlich        | Luke Matthew Quardokus      |
| Merab Vincent Iqbal       | Julia Suzanne Shook         |
| Ethan Ernest Kwizile      | Callan North Toman          |



**Youth Group Activities**

*Sunday morning Bible Study  
 9:45 - 10:45 AM - Youth Room*

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

<p><b>MAY</b></p> <p>5 - Youth Event, TBD</p> <p>12 - <i>Mother's Day - No Group!</i></p> <p>19 - <i>Confirmation - No Group!</i></p> <p>26 - Youth Event, TBD</p>	<p><b>JUNE</b></p> <p>2 - EOY celebrate/Graduates</p> <p>8 - JLK cookout @ Milham Mdws</p> <p>16 - <i>Father's Day - No Group!</i></p> <p>23 - Youth Event, TBD</p> <p>30 - Youth Event, TBD</p>
<p><b>JULY</b></p> <p>7 - Silver Beach trip</p> <p>14 - Pool Party @ Burnett's</p> <p>21 - VBS Setup</p> <p>22-26 <i>VBS VOLUNTEER WEEK</i></p> <p>27 - VBS Celebration</p> <p>28 - <i>Recovery - No Group!</i></p> <p>30 - 31-8/1 Jr. Youth Gathering</p>	<p><b>AUGUST</b></p> <p>4 - Family Mtg.</p> <p>11 - <i>No Group!</i></p> <p>12 - Camping @ Warren Dunes</p> <p>18 - <i>No Group!</i></p> <p>25 - Back2School Fun!</p>

# 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*



**HELP THE KIDS SEE JESUS!!**

Looking for...

- Summer Sunday School Volunteers
- Vacation Bible School Volunteers
- Volunteers for Children's Messages

Flexible scheduling. Earn service hours.  
Training Available.

**LOVES KZOO**  
**2024 CATALYST bursts**  
Sparking REVIVAL all Summer long!

**HELP US SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS AND LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST!**

**SAT, June 8 | 11:30am-2:30pm**

**MILHAM MEADOWS**  
6103 Mallard Circle, Portage, MI 49024

**VOLUNTEER TO HELP SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!**

**SIGN UP AT JESUSLOVESKZOO.ORG/VOLUNTEER**



SEEKING GOLFERS & SPONSORS  
FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL

# JLK GOLF OUTING

## FOLLOWED BY WORSHIP IN THE PARK

**JESUS  
LOVES KZOO**

**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



Dinner to  
Follow at  
Milham Park  
at 6pm

[Jesusloveskzoo.org/golf-fundraiser/](https://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

WAYS TO DONATE WILL INCLUDE  
SPONSORSHIPS  
SILENT AUCTIONS  
Merchandise Sales

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

[Jesusloveskzoo.org](http://Jesusloveskzoo.org)

## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT COSTS TO MAKE A QUILT?

Let me break it down for you:

### MATERIALS

Pattern		\$12
Material for front 6 yds @ \$12	\$72	
Material for back 6 yds @ \$12	\$72	
Batting		\$15
Thread		\$5
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$176</b>

### CONSTRUCTION

(Labor based on \$15/hr)

Top @ 40 hrs	\$600
Assembling & Tying @ 4 hrs	\$60
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$660</b>

**TOTAL COST \$836 PER QUILT**

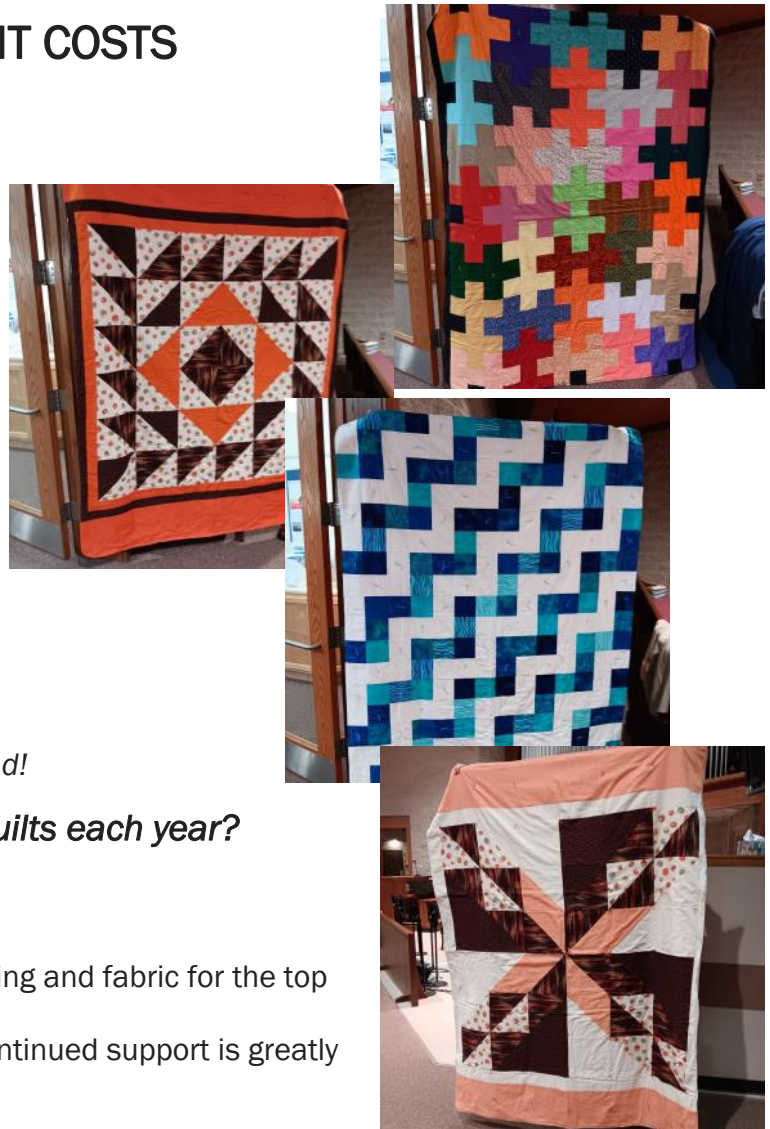
*And this is on the "cheap" end!*

So, how do we manage to produce so many quilts each year?

- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Generous gifts of cash
- ◆ Generous donations of 100% cotton fabric
- ◆ Shopping estate sales for sheets to use as backing and fabric for the top

Thanks for helping us be the hands of Jesus! Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Laura Bell, Quilting Group Coordinator



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

Games - Snacks  
 Crafts - Decorating  
 Registration  
 Mission Project  
 Saturday Celebration  
 Setup (Sunday) / Cleanup (Friday)

REGISTER AT:  
[MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG](http://MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG)

THE GREAT JUNGLE JOURNEY

## Say VB-yes!

Prepare for an epic adventure with the great jungle journey by Answers In Genesis coming July 22-26, with a family celebration on the evening of the 27th.

Kids and adults will enjoy a boatload of fun, as they embark on a jungle river cruise from Genesis to Revelation.

This quality curriculum will help kids form a Biblical worldview to truly understand the Gospel and how scriptures relate to their every day life. And of course, there's tons of fun! With engaging music, science experiments, and more. Volunteers and Kids will love VBS week!

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



**CONTINUED:**

**A CRASH COURSE IN CHRISTIAN CARING**

**Galatians 6:10** ~ *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."*

On April 28, we continued our class on Christian Caring with a discussion on "What to Say and What Not to Say".

In caring for others, it is important that we not get the process mixed up with the results. Faith and trust are the results we hope for, but we need to remember the motto for caring for others - "We are the Caregivers - God is the Caregiver". The best way we can care for others is to help them feel free to fully express what's in their hearts and minds - trusting that, by grace, God will grant them the faith they need to find growth, peace, and healing.

On May 5, we will continue our discussion with "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.

Two important things we will talk about in these discussions will be: Grace-Based Acceptance and How to be a Non-Judgmental listener. Some people will be worried about how we will react to some of the things they may share, however, you will want to make them feel safe about sharing their concerns with you.

We will talk about ways to ask questions and encourage sharing. Also, how to avoid platitudes or fix-it-answers.

Finally, on May 12, we will talk about 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 (personal and professional).

I pray that these discussions will draw you closer to God and the work he has for us to do in encouraging our fellow believers.

Blessings,

*Virginia Hetrick* - Prayer Coordinator

# LCMS Foundation

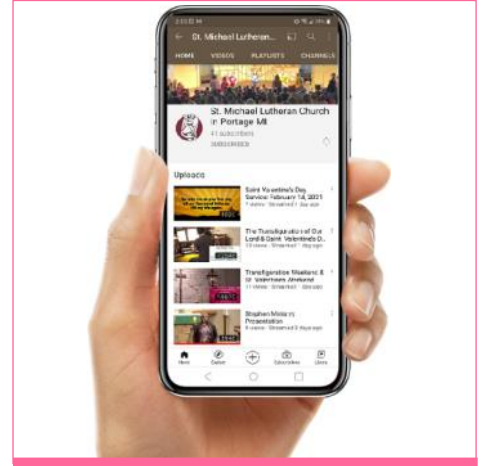
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

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

“My congregation won’t know what to do with a gift if I leave something from my estate.” That is where the conversation turned between two friends having coffee one afternoon. The other responded, “I thought our Church had an endowment fund. Have you considered giving to that?” “I hate to admit it, but I really don’t know what it is about. I’ve heard financial reports at congregational meetings, but it just seemed like numbers. It’s my fault, but I have never investigated what that fund does.”

This experience is quite common for many of us. Our world is so full of information that we have to decide about what we will consider and when we will consider it. It may be true that we haven’t spent much time thinking about charitable gifting from our estates and so we have not paid much attention to something like our congregation’s endowment fund, or future ministry fund.

So where do we start? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor is trained to assist you in creating a gift plan that blesses the family you love and the ministries you care about. Part of that work for gifting to ministry might be some research, identifying the proper recipient of a gift from your estate. Maybe your questions are similar to what others have already asked. Or maybe the Gift Planning Counselor knows exactly who to ask. For assistance, contact...



## 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

### Office Contacts:

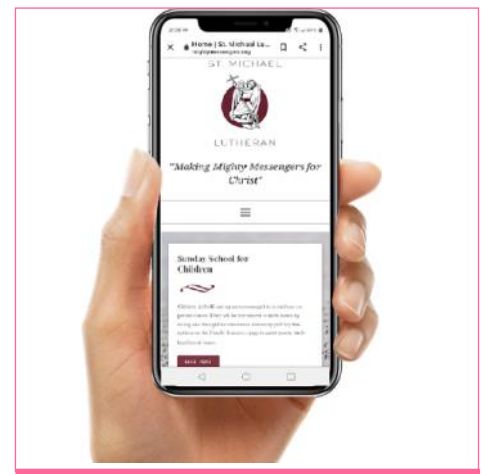
Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

### mightymessengers.org

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



**HELP US CELEBRATE YOUR SENIOR**  
Submit to the Church Office by May 24th:

- A Photo
- Student Name
- Parent’s Names
- High School Name
- Future Plans

Students will be honored guests on June 2 at 8:30 am Worship with a reception following in the Gym and in the June newsletter.

### 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. .



2023 Graduates

# 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*



## Adult Basketball (16+)

### Drop In – Coed

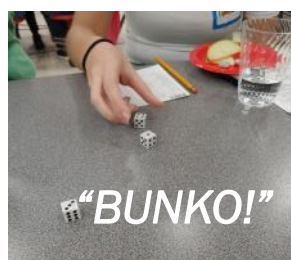
Wednesday Evenings

6:30 PM - Gym

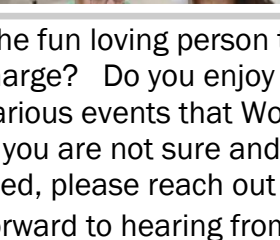
If you are 16 years or older come join us in the gym for open court Adult Basketball. Get some exercise.

Have some fun.

*Hope you can make it!*



Women's Fellowship held their first Bunko Tournament on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to Tammy Songer and her sister-in-law, Lesley Hagelgans, who taught the game to the majority of the thirty-seven players who attended. It made for a fun afternoon with friends. We're looking forward to our next tourney. *Stay tuned!*



***This could be you....*** The fun loving person that Woman's Fellowship is seeking to lead the charge? Do you enjoy people and would like to help coordinate the various events that Women Fellowship is known for? If this is you, or if you are not sure and have questions about becoming more involved, please reach out to Diane Gibson or Judy Schroeder. We look forward to hearing from you.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN - Sunday Morning Classes are available during the 9:45 AM Learning Hour

TEENS - Classes are available during the 9:45 AM learning hour on Sunday mornings; Confirmation studies for 6-8th grade are on Wednesday evenings during the school year at 5:45 PM; Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM

ADULTS - Topical studies are available during the 9:45 AM Learning Hour on Sunday mornings; various Bible study groups, prayer groups, and activity groups meet during the week. *Exploring Our Faith* is for those that are interested in learning more about being Lutheran, and especially being a member of St. Michael. This course is taught in the fall and winter.

## NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants up to 3 years old on Sunday mornings during classes and worship times in Room #205 located off the Communication Center.

## BAPTISM

Anyone desiring baptism should visit with a pastor who will set up a meeting and schedule an appropriate time.

## WEDDINGS

We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32). A Wedding in the church is an act of worship. The purpose of a church wedding is to thank and praise God and to petition His blessings upon the couple who solemnize their marriage before Him.

## ENEWS DEADLINE

Please consider items you might need to submit to the Church Office for the next email newsletter, as you read the current one. Items need to be submitted by 4:00 PM on Thursdays.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

To insure a quality product is available for the membership, please consider items you might need to submit to the Church Office for the next monthly newsletter, as you read the current one. Deadline is the 20th of each month.

## CHANGE OF NAME / ADDRESS / PHONE / EMAIL

You can always call the Church Office or use the form on the website to reach out and share a message with us!

<https://www.mightymessengers.org/contact-us/>

## MARCH FINANCIALS

5 Months

11/1/2023 - 3/31/2024

Church Revenue	\$	351,613
School Revenue	\$	<u>538,287</u>
Total Revenue	\$	889,895
Total Expenses	\$	<u>872,798</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$	17,097
Expense Budget	\$	887,988
Under/(Over) Budget	\$	1,907
Working Cash Balance	\$	46,568
Mortgage Balance	\$	632,374

## Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$	694,340
Building Contingency	\$	23,325
Parking Lot Fund	\$	15,000
HVAC	\$	31,853
Technology Refresh	\$	10,093
Sunday School	\$	1,173
Youth Donations	\$	22,617
Youth Accounts	\$	4,777
Good Samaritan	\$	4,522
Memorials	\$	13,578
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$	10,038
POBLO South Asia Ministry	\$	3,596
Student Debt Fund	\$	692
Church Worker Scholarship	\$	585
Luth Medical Emerg Fund	\$	250
School Improvements	\$	28,657
Tuition Assistance	\$	47,330
School Music	\$	455
School Sports	\$	(413)
Flower Fund	\$	5,871
CFK Mission Expansion	\$	82,760
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$	3,219
Faith Budget	\$	-

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Annual Avg. 2023	327
January '24 Avg.	378
February '24 Avg.	297
March '24 Avg.	483
April '24 Avg.	318

# 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*

*Do you have your purpose and place in the ministry of St. Michael? Perhaps you were unsure of where to start...Or maybe, you are waiting for someone to ask you to serve in a specific capacity.*

*Church isn't a spectator sport. In first Corinthians 12, Paul describes the church as a body. He indicates that a healthy congregation is a church with each part functioning as determined by the Holy Spirit. That portion of scripture provides substance to the term “member.”*

*Start with PRAYER, then REVIEW this list of areas to be a SERVANT OF CHRIST, and as the Holy Spirit works – ACTIVELY pursue your passion. Call the Church Office today to get connected!*

- ◆ Altar Guild
- ◆ Audio/Visual Team
- ◆ Choir / Praise Team
- ◆ Coffee Host
- ◆ Colonial Acres projects
- ◆ Encourager
- ◆ Evangelism Board
- ◆ Fellowship Board
- ◆ Food Pantry Collection
- ◆ Guest Experience Team
- ◆ Jesus Loves Kalamazoo projects
- ◆ Jr./Sr. Youth Group
- ◆ Life Skills for kids
- ◆ Nursery Attendant
- ◆ Meals for friends in need
- ◆ Organizing
- ◆ Parish Education Board
- ◆ Prayer Ministry
- ◆ PTL of school
- ◆ Quilters
- ◆ Scripture Reader
- ◆ Shut-Ins Visitor
- ◆ Small Group Host
- ◆ Stephen Minister
- ◆ Sunday School Assistant
- ◆ Usher
- ◆ Vacation Bible School Team
- ◆ Watering Plants
- ◆ Women's Fellowship
- ◆ Media Team
- ◆ Yard work
- ◆ Youth & Young Adult Board



**SATURDAY,  
MAY 11  
8:00 AM**

*More hands make the work more fun, and we accomplish even more!*

**PATRIOT academy**

**BIBLICAL CITIZENSHIP**  
IN MODERN AMERICA

Providing the Biblical, Historical, and Constitutional instruction we need at such a time as this!

**REGISTER TODAY!**

Class Dates: 5/29, 6/5, 6/12, 6/19, 6/26, 7/10, 7/17 & 7/24  
Where: St. Michael Lutheran Church Sanctuary  
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
Questions: Contact Mark Chilcott at 269-998-6147 or [mchilcott@chilcottdevelopmentgroup.com](mailto:mchilcott@chilcottdevelopmentgroup.com)

## Biblical Citizenship in Modern America

*A Patriot Academy Course*

Now more than ever, our nation needs Biblical worldview citizens who grasp the dynamic unity of citizens of the Kingdom of God and citizens of this great nation! Throughout our history, American pastors & churches have played a vital role in establishing and preserving religious and civil liberty. Being Biblical Citizens requires a knowledge of Biblical principles and how to apply them to the world around us. SMLC, in unity with the body of Christ, can play a vital role in restoring Biblical values and preserving liberty in our neighborhood, State, and Nation.

This Biblical Citizenship course offers a quick-start guide to the longest-standing Constitution in history, complete with an overview of all the Articles, and Amendments. What sets this apart from other U.S. Constitution courses is the interactive, fast-paced presentations; the fabulous locations of Independence Hall and the Wallbuilders' Library; and finally, our Biblical heritage intricately woven throughout the entire course! You will learn how the founders relied on their Christian moorings and Biblical worldview to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. You will also be treated to encouraging historical facts and inspirational true stories that are not taught in our educational institutions today. All in all, you will be edified and equipped to operationalize your faith and practice Biblical Citizenship in Modern America!

Each week, we'll begin with an introduction to the week's class and then take a journey through the Bible & American history to see how Biblical principles can be-applied today. We will visit experts across the Nation, visit the amazing library of David Barton where we'll find the world's largest private collection of America's Founding Era documents, and then we'll dive into the U.S. Constitution in the very room where it was framed – Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*Ready to get started?*

Use the following link below to register: <https://www.patriotacademy.com/coach/find-a-class>

Use the following information to locate the SMLC class:

**Search:** Portage

**All States:** Michigan

# 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

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Dan Marshall, Director

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Vacant, Chairman

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Vacant, Chairman

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Vacant, Director  
Vacant, Assistant Director

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Greg Wedel, Assistant Director

### **ALTAR GUILD**

Kristi Rudowske, Linda Fry

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Virginia Hetrick, Jan Chilcott

### **PRAYER MINISTRY COORDINATORS**

Barbara Schubert, Virginia Hetrick

### **USHERS**

Mike Minger - Early Service  
Jesse Hogue - Late Service

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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

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Kathie Seufert, Assistant Director

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### **CRADLE ROLL**

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### **LIFE SKILLS CLASSES**

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Diane Gibson, Director  
Judy Schroeder, Assistant Director

### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP / LWML**

Arla Mayhew

### **SPORTS MINISTRY**

Shannon Miskovich

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