



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

July 2024 Volume 63, Number 7



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

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

"It's a jungle out there, disorder and confusion everywhere, no one seems to care. . . It's a jungle out there!" While these song lyrics by Randy Newman accompany the opening credits of the TV detective series "Monk," they just as well could describe the state of our messed up world today. War continues to rage in the Middle East and in Eastern Europe even as senseless violence abounds here at home. Moral confusion characterizes our culture and its perversion plagues our society, our schools, and even our civil government. Then, in the midst of all this, sometimes random disasters can befall us in the form of severe weather or unexpected injury or serious illness. It's enough to move many to seek escape through unhealthy habits or to retreat into virtual reality.

Just as life in this world can seem to be totally out of control, we are reminded in God's Word that He is sovereign and actually in control of all things. The Bible assures us that our Lord Jesus Christ *"is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and*

steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven" (Colossians 1:15-23).

To help families drive home this truth, toward the end of this month our annual Vacation Bible School will take us on *"The Great Jungle Journey,"* courtesy of the latest curriculum from *Answers in Genesis* (answersingenesis.org). It will be an epic exploration of the main themes of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Amid sloths, butterflies, river dolphins, and dart frogs, we will travel a fun jungle cruise that will stop at each of seven very significant ports of call. They're called the Seven Cs of History: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. This grand sweeping overview of biblical themes will help kids take on a biblical worldview, so that they might begin to see their every day life in this world the way that God sees it and has revealed it to us in the Bible. It can help us make sense of what might appear to be merely a tangled jumble of random events, and enable us to put our existence into the logical framework of God's eternal plan.

So please join us July 22-26 on this *Great Jungle Journey* by enrolling your kids and grandkids, and by signing up to serve as a volunteer in whatever capacity you would like. Just navigate on your computer over to <https://www.mightymessengers.org/VBS/> and click on the dark blue box that says, "Register Your Student or Volunteer Today!" God can and will use this experience in His Word to help us all *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen!"* (2 Peter 3:18).



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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CELEBRATION

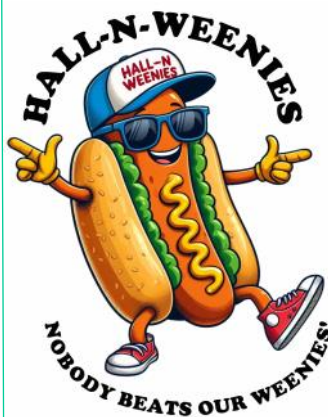


July 29 - starting with
kids sharing praise and
daily lessons at
5 PM Worship

The Whole Congregation is invited to mingle, eat good food and enjoy the evening in our parking lot.



FREE
Inflatable
FUN...



Signature Weenies		+Add +
1/16z Weenie	\$4.50	Chips \$1.50
<small>Hot Cheddar or Mustard, Ketchup, Pickles</small>		Water \$1.50
2/1 Coney Dog	\$4.50	Pop \$2.50
<small>Mustard, Pickles, All beef, served warm, Served Cheddar + Mustard</small>		
3/1 The Rotti	\$4.50	*Combos*
<small>Hot Cheddar, Pickles, Ketchup, Mustard, Pickles, Served Warm</small>		1/1 Date Night
4/1 Kravt Dog	\$4.50	4 weenies of your choice + 2 chips and 2 pop \$10.00 (with any 2 for \$1.00 each)
<small>Cheddar, Mustard, Pickles, Ketchup, Mustard, Pickles, Served Warm</small>		
5/1 Chili Cheese Please	\$4.50	
<small>Cheddar, Mustard, Pickles, Ketchup, Mustard, Pickles, Served Warm</small>		
6/1 Drive In	\$4.50	
<small>Cheddar, Mustard, Pickles, Ketchup, Mustard, Pickles, Served Warm</small>		
7/1 Middle Dog	\$4.50	
<small>Mustard, Pickles, Ketchup, Mustard, Pickles, Served Warm</small>		
Fan Favs		1/2 Fan Fav
8/1 Mad Dog	\$5.50	6 Signature Dogs of your choice + 2 chips and 2 pop \$30.00 (with any 2 for \$1.00 each)
9/1 Mac Dog	\$5.50	
10/1 The D.L.T.	\$5.50	Cash/Card Accepted *
<small>Cheddar, Mustard, Pickles, Ketchup, Mustard, Pickles, Served Warm</small>		



YOUNG TALENT
will be JAMMING!

Serving: Handmade in Michigan Ice Box Bars, Classic Ice Cream Bars, Ice Pops, FatBoy® Ice Cream Sandwiches. Prices range from \$2 to \$5.50 per treat.



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

Dear mighty messengers:

Summer is here! Sometimes this can mean vacations and a slower pace, but this is not always the case. Sometimes the pace does not slow down, and this can present both opportunities and stress.

What is Jesus calling you to do this summer? There is absolutely nothing wrong with taking vacation time and a pause with your family. No matter what we do during the summer, however, the great commission from Jesus still stands: go and make disciples.

Consider how you may continue to fulfill the great commission during the summer months. First and foremost, we start with our families, and continue to encourage our loved ones to repent and trust in Jesus. Secondly, we speak and live the gospel to those that Jesus brings into our lives, even during the dog days of summer.

God bless you as you continue to live as mighty messengers for Jesus Christ!

In Jesus, THE Mighty Messenger,

Pastor Maske





Become a force multiplier and take back our Republic!

 **PATRIOT**
academy

Join Patriot Academy to gain the tools and knowledge needed to defend our God-given rights and actively contribute to preserving our Nation.

Saturday, July 13, 2024
Michigan Coach Conference
10am - 5pm
12th Street Baptist Church
3911 South 12th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009



Keynote Speaker
**America's
Constitution
Coach!**
Rick Green

Select Your
Ticket Option
& Reserve
Your Seat
TODAY!



Less Thorn or More Grace?

July 7, 2024 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

Paul wanted less “thorn” (suffering). Instead, God gave him more grace! What thorns plague your life? What could God be teaching you through this? What blesses us for eternity – less thorn or more grace?

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Readings: Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Mark 6:7-13

John's Triumphant Death

July 14, 2024 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

To many people John the Baptist had a miserable, terrible conclusion to his life. But the spiritual reality is that he had a triumphant death. The account of the end of his life speaks to you today, and gives you great comfort and encouragement.

Sermon Text: Mark 6:14-29

Readings: Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 7:10-15; Mark 6:14-29

More Than Enough

July 21, 2024 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Thomas Eggold

We've all experienced times when our own resources simply aren't enough; when we are backed into a corner and all we can do is throw up our hands, admit that our situation is hopeless, and cry out for help. And it's in that moment of surrender and honesty that God works and, in spite of what we lack, He provides what we need the most.

Sermon Text: Mark 6:42

Readings: Psalm 23; Jeremiah 23:1-6; Mark 6:30-44

I AM. Fear Not.

July 28, 2024 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Shayne Jonker

It's nice to hear and to know about Jesus walking on the water in the wind at three in the morning. It's saving to know Jesus walking on the water of your Baptism with the Spirit of God blowing over those baptismal waters. Walking on the sea, Jesus reveals Himself to be Lord of Creation; in the water of Baptism, He reveals Himself to be your Lord and Savior.

Sermon Text: Mark 6:50

Readings: Psalm 136:1-8, 26; Genesis 9:8-17; Mark 6:45-56



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](#)

We remember to pray for Homebound friends:

Caroline Barkow, Sally Beck, Judy Chumas, Shirley Cosgrove, Ginny Evans, David Groll, 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.

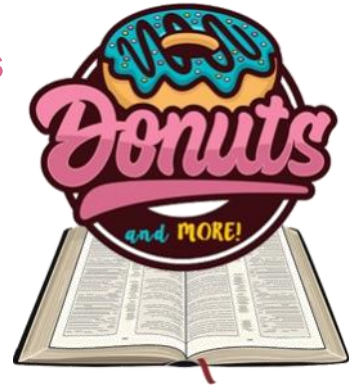
Luke 18:15-17

Join Us!

- ◇ Celebrations
- ◇ Bible Study
- ◇ Guest Speakers

**SUMMER
SUNDAY MORNINGS
9:45-10:45 AM
IN THE GYM**

- ◇ Friends
- ◇ Coffee
- ◇ & Donuts!



“Legislation Impacting Christians” (10:00 am – 10:30 am) VIDEO-BASED
with Lesson Guided by Pastor Naumann
Michigan District President Rev. Dave Davis interviews our District’s Superintendent of Schools, Travis Grulke, and the Executive Director of our LCMS “Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty,” Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz

- July 7 - “Positive Impacts Christians Can Make on Their Government” (part 2)
- July 14 - “The Proper Christian Posture Toward Culture” (part 1)
- July 21 - “The Proper Christian Posture Toward Culture” (part 2)



Sunday morning Bible Study
9:45 - 10:45 AM
8th Grade & High School Students
in Youth Room

Youth Group Activities

All are welcome that have FINISHED 6-7-8 grades or in High School

Upcoming Events:

- 7/7 - Silver Beach:** invited to join the Trinity, PawPaw group
- 7/14 - Pool Party:** Jeff & Beth Burnett hosting at their home 2-6PM
- 21 - VBS Setup**
- 22-26 VBS VOLUNTEER WEEK**
- 27 - VBS Celebration**
- 28 - Recovery - No Group!**
- 7/30-8/1 District Gathering in Frankenmuth**

**** 8/4 Youth & Adult Kiddie Pool Kickball Game **** - Plus, discussions on the next season of youth activities. ***Make plans now to join us!***

“Exploring Our Faith”

What does it mean to be a Lutheran? What do Lutherans believe? How is this similar and/or different from the doctrines taught by other denominations and religions?

What makes Saint Michael Lutheran Church special? How do we care for one another and how can I get involved in what God is doing among us?

You may be asking yourself these questions, especially if you are new to the Lutheran church, or if you are sending your children to a Lutheran school. You may have an interest in these things because you are thinking about joining our congregation, even as one transferring to us from another LCMS church.

In order to address these questions, we offer this course of instruction entitled: **“Exploring Our Faith.”** It is taught on Sunday mornings during the same time as the children’s Sunday School and other Adult Bible Classes, namely 9:45 am to 10:45 am.

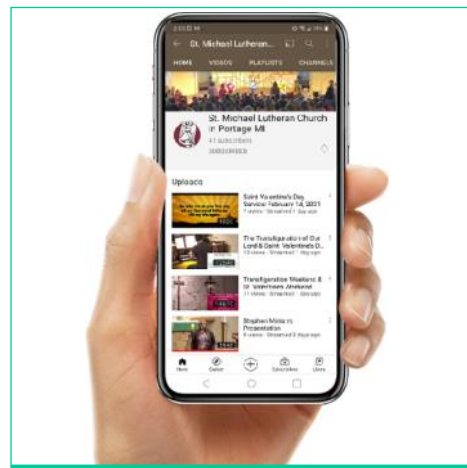
Course Schedule (Fall of 2024)

Date Lesson # Topic

9/8	Lesson #1: God and the Bible
9/15	Lesson #2: The Father & Creation
9/22	Lesson #3: Sin & the Law
9/29	Lesson #4: Person & Work of Jesus
** 10/6	“Liberty Weekend” (The 2 Kingdoms)
10/13	Lesson #6: The Holy Spirit
10/20	Lesson #7: Holy Baptism
10/27	Lesson #8: The Lord’s Supper
11/3	Lesson #9: Lord’s Prayer
11/10	Lesson #10: Office of the Keys
Saturday, 11/23 — 10:00 am New Member Orientation	

In this course, you will find that our Lutheran faith is Bible based, and you will get to know some of the existing ministry leaders in our congregation. All in all, it will help prepare you to be a more faithful follower of our Lord Jesus Christ, and an active communicant member of St. Michael Lutheran Church and School.

“Making Mighty Messengers for Christ: Teaching His Truth, Living His Love”



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:

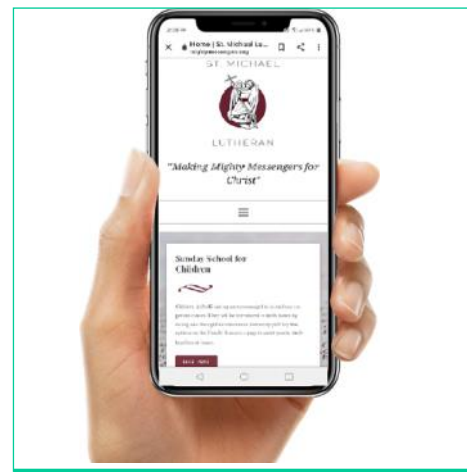
Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

mightymessengers.org

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



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



Introducing the 2024 LAMP Team: Rev. Dr. Paul Naumann, Dana Naumann, Zachary Button, Ailene Buchtrup, John Buchtrup, Corinne Johnson, Jim Bess. They will leave for Lac Brochet on July 31 and return on August 11.

Prayer Requests:

- The Children and Adults in Lac Brochet
- For the 2024 Team to get ready—for the VBS, Teen Nights, Men & Women Bible Studies.
- For the finances needed for the trip
- Thanks for all that God is doing in Lac Brochet!

You can follow along with our team, as we do daily devotions, by picking up one of the LAMP Summer Devotion booklets in the Communication Center.



If you would like to follow our travels or join the prayer team, please reach out to the Church Office to be added to the communication email list.

S P R I N G 2 0 2 4



SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



Another Year Flies By!

The last 8 years have been filled with much joy as we have witnessed the growth of each of the mission congregations in the Dominican Republic. Seminary students, vicars and interns, and consecrated deaconesses serve in these congregations, in making weekly calls, teaching, carrying out mercy work in institutions for the disabled, and whatever else it might be that is needed by the church as a whole.

We cannot say enough about the amazing teamwork that has been taught, mentored, and carried out here, by the Regional Director, Pastor Ted Krey, the LAC regional staff, the Seminary, and all of the missionaries. Thanks be to God!

*‘...he aprendido a contentarme
cualquiera que sea mi situación’.*

(Phil 4:20)

In the last several months, making chaplaincy visits in our region has taken me to several countries that I've never visited before: Peru, the Cayman Islands, Cuba and Panama. As I've mentioned before, it's very important for missionaries to receive pastoral care - and that is one of my two major responsibilities.

On these trips I've seen some amazing things and a range of circumstances, from the wealth of the Cayman Islands (which sometimes serves as a tax haven) to the dusty hills of Lima, Peru, covered with dilapidated houses on roads where mountain people can only travel on foot.

Nothing could have prepared me for what I saw in Cuba, when we stepped out of the airport to the taxi bay. Lining up to take people into town were classic cars between 65 - 70 years old, loudly running and lovingly maintained by their owners. The freeway was practically deserted except for the odd 1950-something car in the opposite lane. This was a world apart from our "normal" life.

While traveling in Latin America and the Caribbean, it has been humbling to see how people with very little still find contentment and joy in their lives. More than once I have

been reminded of St. Paul's words to the Philippians (4:11), that he had learned to be content regardless of his circumstances. In our various LCMS missions across the region we find multiple examples of the kind of contentment that is described in God's Word, among those who understand that *'godliness with contentment is great gain'* (1 Tim. 6:6). The author to the Hebrews teaches us, *'Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, for God has said: "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you"'* (Heb 13:5). Indeed, the most precious gift He has given us is Himself, and eternal life with Him in heaven.

As we once more direct our attention to the atonement Christ Jesus made for us, we see the source of our contentment in the face of all of our material needs, remembering that if *'He who did not spare his own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?'* (Romans 8:32). Deaconess Cheryl and I are very grateful for your prayers and your part in giving to our mission so that we can continue to serve as we do, in Jesus' name. Thank you!

Pastor Jonathan

More from Pastor Jonathan...

One of the most inspirational parts of being a missionary here is participation in the worship of our Savior Jesus Christ. Most frequently, I 'robe up' to carry out my responsibilities as regional chaplain in the chancel, or I play the keyboard surrounded by other talented and dedicated musicians.

We praise God that He has called two new professors to Concordia Seminary of the Reformer here in the DR. Again as Chaplain I will have a large part in the field orientation for these men and their families.

Apart from the chaplaincy work, my other work is still in Spanish, whether it be teaching seminary classes or working as director of the Seminary library. Each day has its challenges, but those challenges are always accompanied by the grace and mercy of God!



Palm Sunday at Pueblo Nuevo



Seminary dormitory with cross on hill



Baptism in San José de Ocoa mission start



Sunday School in Las Americas



Palm Sunday procession to Lamb of God mission in Licay

Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for your patience while waiting for this newsletter. When we were in the US on "home service" (March and April), it wasn't possible to finish and send out the newsletter that Pastor Jonathan started before we began traveling. Now that we are home in the DR we are finally finding it possible.

In April, only a few days before flooding ravaged the historic geographic heart of Lutheranism in Brazil, 250 pastors and laymen of the Lutheran Church of Brazil met at Concordia Seminary in Sao Leopoldo for Disaster Response training. As coordinator for the Latin America and Caribbean Mercy Center, I arranged for Pastor Cristian Rautenberg of Argentina to be there with our LCMS staff. Together they gave presentations and lead volunteers in the physical response to the flooding. Pastor Rautenberg also conducted Disaster Response training in Chile in May. He has been a great blessing during his time serving as "subject expert" on behalf of the LCMS DR Mercy Center for the southern cone of South America. How blessed is the church when God prepares His people to work together to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of those who are in distress!

"Go and Be Reconciled" is a very popular Mercy Center workshop in LAC countries right now. I arranged for this course to be held in Jamaica in English in May - taught by Ted Kober himself, who was the founder of Ambassadors of Reconciliation. This Mercy Center workshop also took place (in Spanish) in Chile, led by Pastor Brandon Martin in March. In this current month of June, it will be taught by Pastor Neftali Garcia (of Mexico) in Panama, and Pastor Arturo Maita (of Puerto Rico) in Venezuela. Making the arrangements for these conferences is all part of my work for the Mercy Center.



VBS Mission Projects

Students and families participating in the Vacation Bible School this year will be encouraged to share their blessings with two ministries that are very important to the St. Michael family.

If interested, this would be an awesome opportunity for you to join them!

The \$\$ bills and coins collected will be split to support the ministries of a daughter of our congregation, Mariah Chilcott and the Unknown Nations ministry.

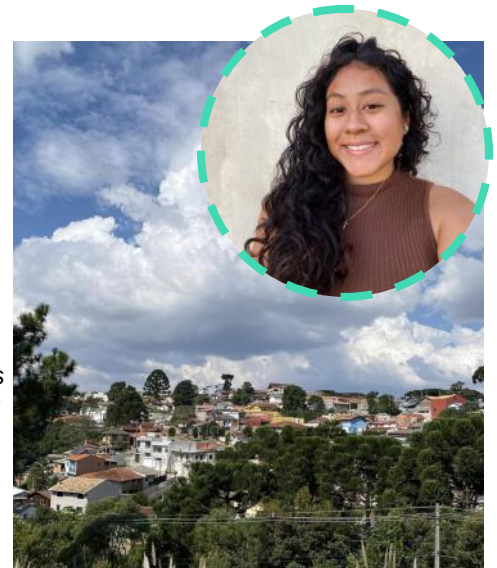
There will be a challenge to see if BOYS or GIRLS will bring the most \$\$ to VBS in support of these mission opportunities. Cream Pies are usually a reward for our VBS emcee of the week.

In response to the call of our Lord to “go and tell” and in answer to your prayers and ours, Mariah has traveled to Brazil and is working with YWAM’s Viva Hope program in Monte das Aguias, initially for a 2-year commitment.

Her words: “Viva Hope was started in 2014 by a couple, the husband is Brazilian and the wife is American! They both had dreams and a vision to see the kids in Brazil grow in the Word and not of the world. Their focus is kids ages 7-14 and through working with the kids they are able to go more into the community.

We will have classes for the kids to learn things such as ballet, cooking, soccer, jiu-jitsu, art, hygiene classes, and possibly English classes! While the kids are in classes we also have times of discipleship for the moms who come to drop their kids off. Every Sunday we do “home visits” which means we will be going to visit the kids homes and see how they live, what kind of atmosphere their home life is, and just to be with them and their families.

In many ways I have been challenged and stretched out of my comfort zone. I have been learning so much more Portuguese, enjoying the food, and learning a lot more about the culture, myself, and God.”



Unknown Nations: *Make Jesus Known to the Ends of the Earth*

A mission to spread the Gospel to the most remote and spiritually dark corners of the world working with indigenous missionaries in the 10/40 window to reach barrier-ridden people groups with the Bible. We provide humanitarian relief, plant churches, and distribute audio Bibles in areas where Jesus is completely unknown.

With your help, we can reach the unknown nations by distributing solar-powered audio Bibles spoken in their heart language through an MP3 file. This tool, called “The Treasure”, is taken into their homes and consumed by people hearing the gospel in their language for the first time. As the Treasure takes root in communities, its reach extends beyond individual homes. Families and neighbors gather around this simple yet powerful device. In 2023, the Gospel of Jesus was shared with 85,000 people.



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

Saint Michael Festival

Mark your Calendar for Sunday, September 29th to attend our church picnic at Schrier Park. It has been too many years since we have been able to come together to celebrate, relax and enjoy some tasty food and fellowship in a beautiful outdoor setting. In addition to good company, Schrier park offers very nice amenities including an indoor shelter, pavilion, picnic tables, playground, restrooms and walking nature trails.

So, save the date.....More details to come!



Thank you to our Teachers!

School may be out for summer, but our hardworking teachers were still at it. During a recent working meeting, we celebrated their devotion to our St. Michael Students with a special breakfast in their honor. Our many thanks to all for their efforts during the school year and beyond, to educate our students and share with them God's grace.



Women's Fellowship

The recent Women's Fellowship event to Battle Creek unfortunately was canceled due to the recent heat wave. For those interested in going to visit the John Kellogg Discovery Center and Historic Adventist Village, this trip will be rescheduled for the Fall. Lunch will also be on the agenda, as well as a visit to Horrock's Farm Market. Watch for future details.

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/>

MAY FINANCIALS

7 Months

11/1/2023 - 5/31/2024

Church Revenue	\$	469,678
School Revenue	\$	<u>750,120</u>
Total Revenue	\$	1,219,798
Total Expenses	\$	<u>1,202,430</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$	17,368
Expense Budget	\$	1,245,406
Under/(Over) Budget	\$	(25,609)
Working Cash Balance	\$	46,839
Mortgage Balance	\$	621,947

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$	715,933
Building Contingency	\$	28,680
Parking Lot Fund	\$	15,000
HVAC	\$	31,853
Technology Refresh	\$	10,398
Sunday School	\$	1,173
Youth Donations	\$	23,523
Youth Accounts	\$	5,013
Good Samaritan	\$	4,543
Memorials	\$	15,403
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$	10,081
POBLO South Asia Ministry	\$	3,596
Quilting	\$	1,610
Student Debt Fund	\$	5,087
Church Worker Scholarship	\$	585
Luth Medical Emergenc Fund	\$	250
School Improvements	\$	76,758
Tuition Assistance	\$	45,797
School Music	\$	83
School Sports	\$	(145)
Flower Fund	\$	5,331
CFK Mission Expansion	\$	54,010
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$	2,592
Faith Budget	\$	-

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Annual Avg. 2023 327

March '24 Avg.483

April '24 Avg.318

May '24 Avg.327

June '24 Avg.**483**

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*

Wanted: Sunday School Teacher or Assistant

Give a current teacher a break! WHAT'S REQUIRED??

- Working knowledge of the Bible and the Christian faith.
- Love of Children.
- Teach children the word of God, as found in Holy Scripture and to encourage children to live holy lives.
- The ability to maintain order and discipline in the classroom through planning and organizational skills.

Curriculum and supplies are provided.

For more information, contact Tammy in the Church Office.

Becky received a frantic text message from her friend Kim. “I need to schedule an appointment with my attorney to update things after Bill died and I am scared to death.” Becky replied, “Why are you scared?” Kim shared, “It has been twenty years since I set foot in an attorney’s office and at that time, they made me feel so dumb for not understanding basic legal process.” Becky responded, “Sounds like you had the wrong attorney.”

This is a frequent scenario played over and over in the minds of many that keep them from creating or updating their estate plans. Most attorneys are probably dismayed to hear such things, as they really only want to help their clients achieve their goals. However, this situation illustrates that some preparation can alleviate some of this anxiety. You don’t set out to replace your deck in your backyard without educating yourself first. You visit stores and look at the variety of materials. You read articles about the best choices. You might even watch videos to elevate your familiarity. The same is true for your estate plan. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor has a great resource that outlines the basic elements of an estate plan and highlights decisions you will need to make along the path toward completion. Instead of being put on the spot in a timed appointment in an attorney’s office, you can begin thinking and praying about what you believe is your goal. Conversations with your Gift Planning Counselor can help you clarify your thoughts. With anticipation and even excitement, you can look forward to that attorney visit, because you know it is helping you to move forward in being a faithful steward of the gifts God has placed in your life to manage for Him, blessing the family you love and the ministries you care about.

To get started on your preparation, contact:

LCMSFoundation
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

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



OPPORTUNITIES TO KEEP MARRIAGE ALIVE!

All married couples should consider one of the two upcoming opportunities to bring their marriage to a new height in communication and closeness. The two experiences are different as to where they will be held but the same in learning and practicing new communication techniques. Each will be taught by Presenter Couples who share their own marriage experiences in inspiring and relatable talks.

September 27-29, 2024 – Calvary Lutheran Church, Plymouth, IN (church-based \$75/couple) Couples would find their own accommodations and attend sessions at the church.

March 21-23, 2025 – The Springs Retreat Center, Gladwin, MI (\$275/couple) Accommodations and all sessions will be held at the retreat center.

Info and Registration: GodLovesMarriage.org
Registration Couple: Mark or Jan Chilcott at 269-998-6147;
mchilcottME@gmail.com

ATTENTION: LME VETS

Encountered Couples, Plan to attend “A Marriage Renewal” at The Shack in White Cloud, MI from November 1-3, 2024
After you have made your reservation at the Shack to attend, please consider the new version of the Annual Reunion wherein LME couples are encouraged to invite a couple who are not yet encountered to introduce them to our wonderful world of “Making the Decision to Love.”
For more information, contact Donna and Brian Zelner at dwzsearch@gmail.com

Lynne & Arlan Wendzel

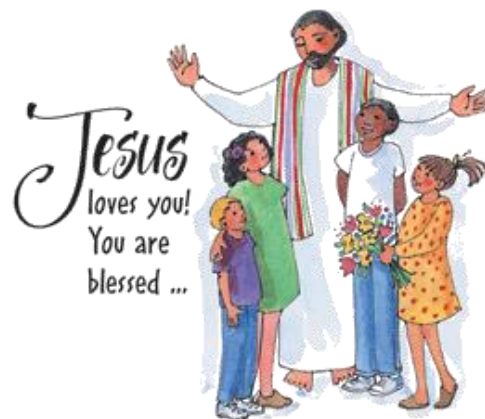
REVIVE THIS SUMMER! July 26-27 | Leonidas

Plan to spend a weekend at Revive Fest with nationally known Christian contemporary artists Tauren Wells, Danny Gokey, The Afters, and more!



This music festival is organized by Creator's Praise, Mendon and takes place at En Gedi Resort in Leonidas.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit myrevivefest.com



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

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

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Brian Chapman
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Barbara Schubert, Virginia Hetrick

USHERS

Mike Minger - Early Service
Jesse Hogue - Late Service

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS

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

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Zachary Button, Peter Robert,
Bill Semrau, Kathy Zakarias

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Brad Hunter, Rick Jacobs