



# THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

September 2024

Volume 63, Number 9

## *St. Michael & All Angels Festival* *Church*

# PICNIC

**Sunday, September 29**  
**12:30 PM ✠ Schrier Park**

*Plan to enjoy the day  
with some fun, food,  
and fellowship.*

## “BACK AT IT”

If you're on social media, you probably saw a number of “First Day of School” pictures posted, and maybe even a couple featuring not only kids but teachers. It's a new school year for everyone, even if you don't go to school or have kids in school anymore, because it tends to be one of those times in the year characterized by new beginnings. I've resisted over the years the “Back to Church” promotionals that are out there as I don't like to assume (or encourage) summer as a break from church as well as school. But in reality, there are always several families who go out of town in the summer on vacation or just weekendend away from home and so church attendance is usually lower in the summer than any other time in the year. So I am excited about seeing more faces in the sanctuary than we have in a while as the month of September kicks in.

In addition to enjoying improved worship attendance, I'm looking forward to a number of other special things starting up in September. First of all, during the time between worship services on Sunday morning, **beginning September 8**, there will be expanded Sunday School and Adult Bible Class opportunities. Once again this past summer, we mailed out over a hundred invitations to our **Exploring Our Faith** class to unchurched SMLS families, unchurched VBS families, and those who have been our guests at worship. May the Lord provide us with several people who would like to explore what we believe as Lutherans and to join our congregation. Rev. Vincent Iqbal had a sizeable group last spring learning about other religions and world views and he will continue to offer this **Comparative Religions** course in September, too. Finally, we plan to offer on Sunday mornings a shortened version of the **Biblical Citizenship** class that we offered for 10 weeks this past summer. The course helps us better understand our own government in the USA, as well as how our form of government flows out of biblical principles. This is a timely course to help us be more informed and responsible voters in this fall's election.

As **Confirmation Class** resumes this month, we're doing things a bit differently than we have ever done in the past. Now I am teaching Luther's Small Catechism in our middle school Bible

classes at St. Michael Lutheran School (on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons) such that SMLS 8<sup>th</sup> graders who desire to be confirmed need not attend class on Wednesday nights. Middle Schoolers who are not at SMLS will continue to come to Confirmation Class (taught by Pastor Toman) at the end of the day on Wednesdays from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Our **Life Skills Class** (taught by Mrs. Mary Wright) will continue to meet on Wednesdays as in the past. Then all Middle Schoolers, both those at SMLS and those who are not, will gather to get to know each other at Sunday School, and at monthly get-togethers alternating between Fellowship Events and Servants Events (planned and implemented by parents). The first one is a Fellowship Event on Sunday afternoon, September 22, from 3:00 to 6:00. We still want to build community among all our Middle Schoolers!

Our **Small Group Ministry** continues all throughout the year as we always have some small groups meeting in the summer, including the men's group that I'm a part of on Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am at Butler's Restaurant. But there are a number of groups who either take a break or meet less frequently in the summer. So a new school year is time to resume Small Group attendance, and also an opportunity to launch some new Small Groups. To that end, a survey was circulated at the end of August and some new groups are in the works. Look for opportunities to sign up, especially on our Small Group Sunday (September 21-22).

I'm sure you will agree that we always have plenty to do in every season of the year, and I hope you can see that our goal in all the above is not simply to provide more activities to spend our time on. No, it has everything to do with feasting on the Word of God from which we draw our faith and strength for all the daily activities and challenges of life. God has prepared a banquet of rich Spiritual food for us. Let's dig in!





# Two Kingdoms & the Champions Network

Speaker

**Reverend  
Mark Frith**

*(From The Lutheran Center  
for Religious Liberty)*

Saturday, October 5th

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

St. Michael's  
Lutheran Church  
7211 Oakland Drive  
Portage, MI 49024



RSVP

913-732-1090

[championsnetworkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:championsnetworkoffice@gmail.com)

Scan QR code



# 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:



During our last Biblical Citizenship Class, we discussed next steps including forming a prayer group to engage in spiritual warfare and intercession for our nation. Our first prayer meeting will be **Monday, September 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the SMLS Library**. Prayer Meetings will continue every Monday thereafter and run through at least the end of November.

**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.

## SMLS PARKING LOT PARTY

*THE AIR WILL BE FILLED WITH MUSIC, THE SMELL OF GOOD FOOD, AND THE LAUGHTER OF FRIENDS*

*FACE PAINTER*

*BOUNCE HOUSE*

*OUTDOOR GAMES*

*2ND HAND SMOKE BBQ FOOD TRUCK*

*PLAYGROUND WITH THE NEW OUTDOOR CLIMBER*

*Let's Party*

**SEPTEMBER 13TH**  
**5:00 - 7:00 PM**



*PURCHASE SOME TASTY GRUB ONSITE WITH 2ND HAND SMOKE BBQ FOOD TRUCK OR BRING YOUR FAVORITE MEAL TO PICNIC. PARK IN A SPOT AND HANG OUT WITH FELLOW SCHOOL FAMILIES.*



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## FAITH FORMATION

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

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

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

## NURSERY

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

## BAPTISM

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

## WEDDINGS

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

## ENEWS DEADLINE

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

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

## CHANGE OF NAME / ADDRESS / PHONE / EMAIL

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

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

## JULY FINANCIALS

9 Months

11/1/2023 - 7/31/2024

Church Revenue	\$	594,162
School Revenue	\$	<u>907,518</u>
Total Revenue	\$	1,501,680
Total Expenses	\$	<u>1,515,421</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$	(16,741)
Expense Budget	\$	1,582,840
Under/(Over) Budget	\$	(81,160)
Working Cash Balance	\$	12,730
Mortgage Balance	\$	609,449

### Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$	722,374
Building Contingency	\$	34,882
Parking Lot Fund	\$	15,000
HVAC	\$	31,853
Technology Refresh	\$	10,815
Sunday School	\$	2,929
Youth Donations	\$	23,518
Youth Accounts	\$	5,013
Good Samaritan	\$	1,293
Memorials	\$	15,249
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$	11,392
POBLO South Asia Ministry	\$	3,596
Quilting	\$	11,596
Student Debt Fund	\$	5,387
Church Worker Scholarship	\$	585
Luth Medical Emergency Fund	\$	250
School Improvements	\$	73,604
Tuition Assistance	\$	41,393
School Music	\$	83
School Sports	\$	22
Flower Fund	\$	4,711
CFK Mission Expansion	\$	17,979
LWML	\$	2,446
Women's Fellowship	\$	43
Faith Budget	\$	-

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Annual Avg. 2023 ..... 327

May '24 Avg. .... 327

June '24 Avg. .... 288

July '24 Avg. .... 306

August '24 Avg. .... 269

# WORSHIP

Gathering around God's Word and Sacraments to receive His gifts & give Him glory.

*We value worship,  
as we gather around  
God's Word and  
Sacraments, that is  
meaningful and up-  
lifting, including clear,  
relevant preaching.  
We appreciate both  
traditional liturgy  
and hymns as well  
as contemporary  
music and desire  
variety and quality in  
all our worship  
services so that we  
might have a  
meaningful  
experience of  
praising and  
glorifying God with  
the best that we have.*

*Colossians 3:16-17*

## KIDS CAN EXPERIENCE THE TRUE HEART OF WORSHIP

Parenting kids in the pew on Sunday morning isn't for the faint of heart. Kids are fidgety, distracting and sometimes downright embarrassing. Just ask the parents of the 2-year-old girl who pointed to a picture of Christ and loudly declared, "Jesus has his pajam-jams on!" Or the mom of the 3-year-old who had been given two quarters for his offering; when told to produce the coins, the boy spit them from his mouth into the offering bag. It's no wonder so many churches have created separate worship spaces for kids and adults.

But I believe parents who choose to keep their kids in the pew with them on Sunday morning have an opportunity to experience the true heart of worship. I actually learned to worship through the effort of teaching my two squirming kids how to worship!

Worship is our offering to God — a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1). Worship is all about God, not us. It is about God's pleasure, not our performance. It is about God's glory, not our growth. Helping my kids engage in worship was a sacrifice of my personal enjoyment and convenience on Sunday morning. But in sacrificing my "what I get out of it" attitude, I learned how to pay attention to what God wanted.

It was hard work to think through how I could train my children to worship. I didn't want them to just be quiet and behave on Sunday morning — I wanted them to belong. I didn't want them to entertain themselves, but to engage with God in the wonder of what worship really is. Eventually, I discovered practical ways to help my kids fully participate in every part of our service, from the singing of praise songs to the listening of God's Word.

- \* Most kids love "the singing part" of the service because they can make a joyful noise as well as anyone. If there is a short refrain, help younger children sing that part with gusto!
- \* Helping children engage in the times of prayer is also important. I can't tell you how many times during the "silent prayer of confession" I leaned over to each of my kids and said, "OK, now's the time to tell Jesus just what you did this week concerning that fight with your brother/sister."
- \* One thing children can prepare ahead of time is their tithe or offering. Let young children decorate small envelopes with a picture for Jesus.
- \* Helping train children to listen during the "long part" (the sermon) is a challenge. Training children to worship the Lord and participate as part of the community of faith takes persistence, patience and prayer. Ask grade-school children to listen for a repetitive idea and to retell an illustration after the service. Ask toddlers to squeeze your finger every time they hear that word.

Don't let the awkward or embarrassing moments dampen your resolve. To see God begin to work wonders in your child is heartwarming. To see them continue that faith journey into adulthood is the deepest joy of parenting!

*Tammy Songer*

## Inside Out

**September 1, 2024 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rev. Thomas Eggold**

God always works from the inside out, and no matter what depraved things you have seen, and no matter what despicable things you have done, and no matter how dirty your heart has been, your sins have been placed by the Father on His Son. Today, because He took your sins upon Himself, you are a new creation in Christ Jesus.

**Sermon Text: Mark 7:15**

**Readings: Psalm 119:129-136; Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Mark 7:14-23**

## Be Opened!

**September 8, 2024 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rev. Shayne Jonker**

Jesus wants to do for you what He did for that deaf mute man in the Decapolis that day. He wants to stick His Word into your ears, to cut through deafness, to open your ears, your minds, and your hearts. Thus He speaks His Ephphatha to you. Be opened.

**Sermon Text: Mark 7:37**

**Readings: Psalm 146; Isaiah 35:4-7a; Mark 7:31-37**

## Healing for Our Children

**September 15, 2024 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rev. Paul Shoemaker**

A seriously ill child demands the parents' full attention. Parents will do anything possible to help their child regain physical health. Our heavenly Father did everything possible to restore our spiritual health, even sacrificing His Son to win for us spiritual health and wholeness. Join us on Worship Anew as we share the tools God gives us to restore and maintain spiritual health.

**Sermon Text: Mark 9:14-29**

**Readings: Psalm 116:1-9; Isaiah 50:4-10; Mark 9:14-29**

## A Difficult Victory

**September 22, 2024 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rev. William Mueller**

The text is all about "Spiritual Warfare." But that often isn't a topic we feel comfortable discussing. Why is that? Might the difficulty lie in the fact we might too readily be reminded of our sin? But it is a victory through Jesus Christ. What makes it difficult?

**Sermon Text: James 3:13-4:10**

**Readings: Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:10; Mark 9:30-37**

## In Service of Go(o)d!

**September 29, 2024 – St. Michael and All Angels**

**Rev. Thomas Ahlersmeyer**

Popular today among both young and old are action hero figures. These heroes in different ways act in service of good. God gives Christ followers the greatest action heroes – angels – who act in and on behalf of the greatest good: in service of good and in service of God!

**Sermon Text: James 3:13-4:10**

**Readings: Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:10; Mark 9:30-37**



[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, 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*

MUSIC ROOM #114

BIBLICAL CITIZENSHIP  
IN MODERN AMERICA

BEGINNING SEPT. 8th

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

SUNDAY MORNING LEARNING HOUR  
9:45-10:45 AM

## “Exploring Our Faith”

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?

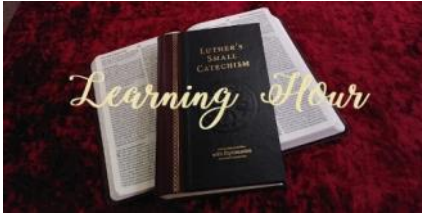
You may be asking yourself these questions, especially if you are new to the Lutheran church, or if you are sending your children to a Lutheran school. You may have an interest in these things because you are thinking about joining our congregation, even as one transferring to us from another LCMS church.

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.

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.

**NEW CLASSES BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 8!!**





# What is coming in the Fall?

	Considerations	GYM - NAUMANN ROOM	MUSIC ROOM	ALLAN HALL	8th - HS YOUTH
9/1/2024	Labor Day	Coffee/Donuts & end of summer fellowship			Coffee club (off-site)
9/8/2024	Christian Ed Kickoff	Exploring Our Faith God & the Bible	Biblical Citizenship	3rd Grade Bible Student/Parent Workshop	"Exploring God's Word"
9/15/2024	Small Group Sunday	Father & Creation	Biblical Citizenship	Comparative Religions	"Exploring God's Word"
9/22/2024	LAMP Report Sunday	Sin & the Law	Biblical Citizenship	Comparative Religions	"Exploring God's Word"
9/29/2024	St. Michael Sunday	Jesus' Person & Work	Biblical Citizenship	Comparative Religions	The Bible and Church bylaws (Town Hall prep)
10/6/2024	Liberty Weekend	Liberty Weekend	Liberty Weekend	Liberty Weekend	Liberty Weekend
10/13/2024	Town Hall Meeting	The Holy Spirit	Town Hall Meeting	Town Hall Meeting	Join congregational Town Hall
10/20/2024	"Find Us Faithful" Stewardship Emphasis	Holy Baptism	Biblical Citizenship	Comparative Religions	"Exploring God's Word"
10/27/2024	"Find Us Faithful" Stewardship Emphasis	The Lord's Supper	"Find Us Faithful: Full of Faith"		"Exploring God's Word"
11/3/2024	"Find Us Faithful" Stewardship Emphasis	The Lord's Prayer	"Find Us Faithful: Leaving a Legacy"		Coffee club (off-site)
11/10/2024	"Find Us Faithful" Commitment Sunday	Office of the Keys	"Find Us Faithful: Committed to the Cause"		"Exploring God's Word"
11/17/2024	New Member Welcome	New Member Welcome	New Member Welcome	New Member Welcome	New Member Welcome
11/24/2024					Board games
12/1/2024	Thanksgiving Weekend Advent Begins	Family Advent Project			



Preschool - 2nd  
Room #123  
Adults Invited to Join Us!  
3rd - 7th Grade  
Room #119  
  
8th Grade & High  
School Students in  
Youth Room  
for Bible Study  
with Pastor Toman



Orientation will be Sunday, September 8 in the Sanctuary.  
We look forward to seeing our 6-7-8th grade friends!  
Middle School Students can now begin selecting dates on the Acolyte Schedule for this school year. You can find that information on our website  
  
**SPECIAL EVENT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22!!**



# YOUTH GROUP

Isaiah 43:19 -- "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

**IT IS TIME TO MAKE AN ADJUSTMENT AND HAVE  
TIME AS SENIOR HIGH ONLY ONCE AGAIN.**

**SUNDAY EVENINGS ✠ 5-7 PM  
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Come make known the things you value in your Christian fellowship time!*



NEW MONTHLY  
6-7-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE EVENTS

PLANNED FOR  
FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

JOIN US FOR GAMES, WORSHIP, FOOD...  
**SEPTEMBER 22 FROM 3-6 PM**



## FINDING PEACE (2)

### Forgiving Yourself and Others

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." – Ephesians 4:32*

Forgiveness is often defined as a deliberate decision to let go of feelings of anger, resentment, and vengeance toward someone who you believe has wronged you. However, while you may be quite generous in your ability to forgive others, you may be much harder on yourself.

Forgiving yourself is about more than just putting the past behind you and moving on. It is about accepting what has happened and showing compassion to yourself.<sup>5</sup>

Facing what you have done or what has happened is the first step toward self-forgiveness. It's also the hardest step. If you have been making excuses, rationalizing, or justifying your actions in order to make them seem acceptable, it is time to face up to and accept what your part was.

As a result of taking responsibility, you may experience a range of negative feelings, including guilt and shame. When you've done something wrong, it's completely normal, even healthy, to feel guilty about it. These feelings of guilt and remorse can serve as a springboard to positive behavior change.

Making amends is an important part of forgiveness, even when the person you are forgiving is yourself. Just as you might not forgive someone else until they've made it up to you in some way, forgiving yourself is more likely to stick when you feel like you've earned it.

Everyone makes mistakes and has things for which they feel sorry or regretful. Falling into the trap of being offended can be damaging and make it difficult to maintain your self-esteem and motivation.

Forgiving yourself often requires finding a way to learn from the experience and grow as a person.<sup>9</sup> To do this, you need to understand why you behaved the way you did and why you feel guilty. What steps can you take to prevent the same behaviors again in the future? Yes, you might have messed up, but it was a learning experience that can help you make better choices in the future.

One thing you absolutely don't want to do is continue to be offended. "The Bait of Satan" by John Bevere explains that one of Satan's best traps (offense) is to get believers out of the will of God. This trap pulls you away from Christian fellowship and can widen the gulf between you and a relationship with Jesus.

*"He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams." – Psalm 23:2*

Blessings – *Virginia Hettrich* – Prayer Team

## HAVE YOU SEEN THE



## IN THE PARKING LOT?

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

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

### **WHAT CANNOT GO IN THE BIN?**

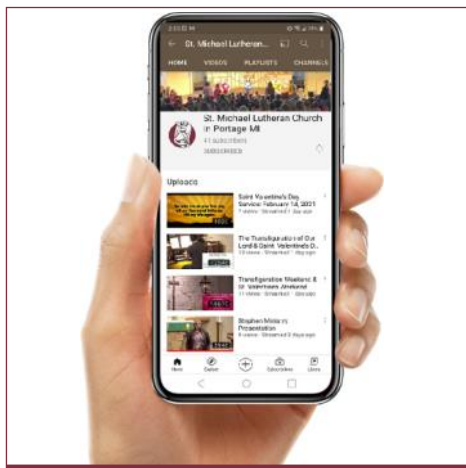
· Plastic · Metal · Trash · Glass · Cardboard

### **WHAT CAN GO IN THE BIN?**

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







## 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.



### Tuesday Evening Ladies Bible Study with Barbara Schubert - 6:30 PM Library

Let's get together to do a one evening class on Tuesday, September 3 at 6:30pm in the Library. This will be a practice class, to see who is coming and to get reacquainted! New ladies are encouraged to come!

We will begin Romans Chapter 8-16 For You, by Timothy Keller, on Tuesday September 10. Please let Barbara Schubert ([schubertbrs@gmail.com](mailto:schubertbrs@gmail.com)) or Kim Ruesch ([kimiruesch@gmail.com](mailto:kimiruesch@gmail.com)) know if you have questions! If you need a book, let us know so books can be ordered soon!

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### Thursday Morning Ladies Begins Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> with Connie Chadderdon - 9:30 AM Church Office Conference Room

We are going to study Golden Fruit by Julie Hale Maschhoff from CPH. We are called to be daughter and wives, sisters and friends, mothers and grandmas. We are called to be volunteers, citizens and leaders. And as we fill these various roles, we are to be intuitive, creative, persistent, supportive, and productive. Is it any wonder that we may also be tired and crabby?

This bible study helps the Christian woman put all of these roles, characteristics and emotions into perspective. Each session focuses on one fruit of the Spirit and considers how the lives and stories of nine biblical women convey that characteristic. Like Esther (self-control) and Dorcas (goodness), Ruth (love) and Elizabeth (joy), learning how God is at work in their lives, and how His promise of salvation and peace through Jesus are fully theirs and ours all the time.

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### Friday Women's Group, 10-11:30am with Angie Heimlich meeting in the prayer chapel beginning September 20

Everyone will need to check in with the school before or after chapel. Our topic is "Praying for your Husband". 1st and 3rd Fridays through May.

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### 2nd and 4th Monday Group with Angie Heimlich meeting in the Music Room starting on October 7th through May, from 7:30-9:00 pm studying Apologetics.



## 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!*



### **Beginning September 9**

Kids Knitting with Mary Wright is available Mondays after school now. Meeting in Allan Hall from 3:15-4:30 PM. Parent or high school student support is appreciated! Let Mary know your student would like to attend by email:

[mary.wright65@gmail.com](mailto:mary.wright65@gmail.com)

### **Beginning September 11**

2nd-5th grade students are invited to join Mrs. Wright for classes on Wednesday nights from 5:15-6:30pm. There is much to be learned and she makes it exciting. Parent or high school student support is appreciated! Let Mary know your student would like to attend by email:

[mary.wright65@gmail.com](mailto:mary.wright65@gmail.com)



## **WANTED: LIBRARY AIDES**

**Help our school! Volunteer  
as little as one hour per week!**

- ⇒ Greet classes visiting the library to borrow books
- ⇒ Help students locate & pick out books to read
- ⇒ Use a computer to check in & check out books
- ⇒ Reshelve books that have been returned *(optional)*

EMAIL [library@mightymessengers.org](mailto:library@mightymessengers.org)  
or see Lynda Rea for more information



## **NEW STEPHEN MINISTRY CLASS COMING IN 2025**

The new class will begin on January 9, 2025 and should conclude on April 24, 2025. Please see a Stephen Minister Leader for information on the class: Virginia Hetrick, Dana Naumann, Karen Schuler, Heather Crampton or Lynda Rea.



# EVANGELISM

Reaching out with the saving Gospel and proclaiming His truth to all people.

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*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*



## LAMP TRIP 2024

(Pastor Naumann's Daily Journal)

### Wednesday, July 31

We are all ready to leave tonight and we have some sad news, one of our team members - Jim Bess will not be traveling with us. Since his father is on hospice and his death is imminent, he needs to stay behind to be with the family. Our prayers are with Jim and his family. We know what a difficult decision this was for him to make. But we are trusting God's grace for Jim and for us as we will definitely miss him in Lac Brochet.

Now we need to adjust our timing as well, since our first flight has been delayed an hour and a half. This will still bring us into Minneapolis in time to make our flight to Winnipeg this evening. So we ask for prayers that we would continue to be flexible to His will and way, trusting Him for the process as well as the results.

### Thursday, August 1

Thanking God for getting us to Winnipeg early this morning. Our flight yesterday (to Minneapolis from Grand Rapids) was a few hours delayed on account of huge thunderstorms in Minneapolis, but God parted the storms for us and we arrived in Winnipeg at 1:30am (2:30 EDT). We didn't get into our hotel rooms in Winnipeg until about 2:00 am this morning, but we could sleep in a bit before our 8 hour drive to Thompson. Now we are on the road after a few hours sleep (some less than others) and will be arriving in Thompson about 6:30 tonight. We



## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

were all able to fit into one big rental vehicle (a KIA Carnival) with all our luggage so that was a blessing, a good bonding experience for us, and a money saver. Our host in Thompson, Katherine, is a delight and we took her out to dinner at around 7:30 pm before spending the night in her home.

### Friday, August 2

On the way to the Thompson Airport this morning we stopped to visit a couple old friends from Lac Brochet at their new apartment in Thompson, and then later ran into still more old Lac Brochet friends at the airport waiting to fly home. Of course, upon arrival in Lac Brochet, we reunited with many old friends, kids and adults alike. Some community people met us at the airport and drove us to the rectory where we unpacked and got settled in. For the first time ever, the church leadership have loaned us the priest's truck to use. This is a great blessing considering Dana is still wearing an ankle brace and has limited mobility. The Lord knows what we need! As expected, kids from the community have gotten word that we're here and have been coming over to play.

### Saturday, August 3

There was lot of unpacking to do and getting settled into the rectory, but sleeping arrangements are quite good this year with everyone having their own private room, except for Zach who offered to sleep on the couch in the living room. He's young enough to take it! After dinner we played ultimate Frisbee with several of the kids before I got out my guitar and sat with them for

singing on the church steps. That was quite fun, although I unfortunately can't hardly play guitar and swat mosquitos at the same time. I'm getting to bed now, but if I have to get up in the night I'm going to take a peak at the sky to see if it's clear enough to look for the northern lights.

I just got kicked out of the church narthex because our ladies on the team initiated a "girls only" bead jewelry making activity with about a dozen girls from the community so I thought I would sit down and write our day in review. It was good to sleep in a bit this morning, but once everyone had what they wanted for breakfast, we dove into our team devotion followed by Bible School prep for next week, especially going over the Bible story dramas. A little after noon, it was time to head over to the school gym and get it set up. The assistant principal met us there with the key to get in

and she was very helpful in finding the sound equipment and giving us access to where we needed to go for the various other pieces of equipment to get set up. Everything went quite smoothly and without any snafus.

Zach and I went around the community putting up invitational posters and conversing with various people we encountered, often inviting them to our activities. One of them sold us fish (pickerel, a.k.a., walleye) and another had wild blueberries he had picked (expensive, but good). Afterwards, we walked down to the "land bridge" between the town and the airport and interacted with several people of both genders and all ages who were competing in a fishing derby for the biggest jackfish (a.k.a., Northern Pike). The one who catches the heaviest fish by 9:00 pm tonight wins \$1,500!

There's some vicious flying insect



up here that draws blood when it bites ("sand fly"). That's annoying enough, but in my case I'm allergic to them such that the bite turns into a feverish hard knot. So, I smear Benadryl cream on them and take Benadryl tablets lest they get kind of systemic. So you can pray about that if you like. Actually, the whole team could use some prayer so that we would continue to gel together as a team, pace ourselves, and be all we can be during the week ahead.

Our "Armor of God: God's Powerful Protection" theme this year is drawn from Ephesians 6, and it's a good one not only for the community, but for our team as well. As our theme song reminds us, we're "in the Lord's army," our enemy is not flesh and blood but spiritual forces that require, as the old hymn puts it, that we "put on the Gospel armor, each piece put on the prayer." Please pray for Jim Bess and family too, as they grieve the death of his father last Thursday.

liturgy and prayers. During the announcement time, Dana was invited to come forward and introduce our team and invite people to our activities. As people were on their way out, we greeted them and handed them invitational fliers about our events.

We bought some fish (pickerel) yesterday from a man in the community and thought we would fry that up for Sunday dinner. I dusted the filets in some shore lunch mixture that Dana had made up in advance, and Corinne made a pearled couscous vegetable medley in the priest's rice cooker. Together with some whole wheat bread it really was a delicious Sunday dinner worthy of taking a nap afterwards. But by 2:30, we needed to venture over to the gym and prepare for our Volunteer Orientation with the community people who help us put on the VBS for the children. There were about five teens who came along with a couple older adults, and we had a fun time

making the crafts the VBS kids will be making so that we have a sample of the finished project to show them. We bring some refreshments and it proves to be an enjoyable and even devotional experience for those who attend, as well as helping us get ready.

After that, we came back to the church to make a sandwich before going back to the gym for teen night. Ailene had set out a wonderful gift table for whomever came in the afternoon for the orientation and we kept it there for the teens too, complete with nice devotional material, Christian jewelry, and Thrivent t-shirts. Teen night was supposed to be at 7:00 pm, but at that point John, Zach, and I just got out sports equipment and got loosened up for the various athletic endeavors. But by 8:00 pm, the teens started pouring it to the point that there were about 30 or so, some doing arts and crafts while others played volleyball or catch with a football. We got most everyone together

### Sunday, August 4

Today we were officially into it (or perhaps in for it) as we had a couple events to put on for the community. But first, we went to church with about a dozen people from the community of all ages who were celebrating a mass (without a priest). They read the appointed readings and conducted the Roman Catholic liturgy and prayers (entirely led by women). But when they got to the service of the sacrament she didn't say the Words of Institution but just elevated the host and said "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." We don't commune with them, but we join in the creed and most of the





## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

for dodgeball, and also for sitting in a circle on the wrestling mats to pass an electronic hot potato called "Shocktato" that plays scary music and gives a little electric shock to whomever is holding it at the time (Ailene's idea). We actually used this game to segue into our devotional about Spiritual warfare and the Armor of God. We weren't too shocked that the teens didn't want to open up, but we just keep on reminding ourselves that it's about the process and not the results. We'll try to keep that in mind as we start the VBS tomorrow afternoon.

### Monday, August 5

We were dragging a bit this morning after an eventful weekend, but by 9:00 am we were gathered around the kitchen table for morning devotions and final preparation for the first day of VBS. We went through everything we would be doing, but especially gave our attention to the Bible story drama in which we would act out the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. It was fairly elaborate with costumes and props but we also costume the kids and try to include them into acting out the story.

We packed a lunch and got over to the school by 1:00 pm. Shortly after we got there, we heard a knock at the back door, which



easily could have been some kids clamoring to come in, but instead it was LAMP missionary pastor Randy and his pilot, Andrew, who came to be with us for the afternoon and pitch in a helping hand with the VBS too. When we let the kids out at the end of the VBS, it was really dumping rain so Andrew was on the phone filing a flight plan and getting clearance to fly out in the weather.

Today was a day for quality over quantity, as we didn't have as many kids for the VBS as in previous years but it made for easier crowd control and more personalized attention. Likewise after dinner we only had two community men for our Men's Bible study, but it was high quality and a great blessing. Well, I'm dosing off as I write this so I'd better call it quits and get to sleep. Tomorrow is another day!

### Tuesday, August 6

It was cool and breezy today, which kept the bugs away considerably - praise God! VBS prep in the morning was cut short

a bit, but for good reason as one of our old friends from the community, John, came over for breakfast and conversation. It was good to see him again as it had been years, and good to get caught up again with what's going on in his life. We also went over to the Band office in the morning to say hello to the chief, have him sign the photo release form, and give him and his staff some small gifts of appreciation. They have built a brand new Band Office building but it is not quite ready to move into yet so we've never seen inside of it.

VBS went rather well today. There were just about 30 kids, and a number of teen and adult helpers with us too. The songs, drama, stations, games, crafts, etc. all went smoothly and with pretty good cooperation from the kids. Among other things, the kids all made a "breastplate of righteousness" out of a paper grocery bag and we got a great group picture of everyone wearing theirs.





After we got cleaned up and packed up, we returned to the church, but John and I went to the store while Dana, Ailene, and Corinne prepared to host the women's Bible study. Zach, John and I put together a spaghetti dinner while the women continued to prepare, and then we all sat down together for a hearty meal. After dinner, the men played games outside with kids so that the six women from the community and our three LAMP Team ladies could be uninterrupted and undisturbed in their Bible study. Zach and I played a version of kickball with the kids called "Boot It," walked down to the lake, then he played hide and seek while I circled up with some teens outside the youth center with a volleyball and tried to see how well we could keep it in the air.

Dana said the women's night went well and that the community women in attendance all received a homemade prayer shawl or blanket. Afterwards, one of the women went home to get a couple big bags of stuffed animals to donate to our kids tomorrow. They'll be excited about that!

Well, I pray we all have a good night's sleep and get recovered from all our bumps, bruises, blood, and bites (I think I'm getting too old for this!). And we especially pray that the Holy Spirit continues to work through each of us to accomplish His good will here in Lac Brochet.

### Wednesday, August 7

I must confess I started out the day in a bit of a funk, but some coffee, devotions, and breakfast



got me in the right frame of mind to give my best to the day. After our usual morning prep, we headed out to the health center to visit with some of the staff there, give them gifts for themselves and the community, and to pray over them. They were very grateful for all of it.

We had more kids at VBS today, about 45, but they were all the more rambunctious than before so it was difficult to corral them into being on task and focused on what we were trying to have them do or present to them at the time. But with some flexibility, patience and endurance we had a decent day teaching on the belt of truth and the shield of faith.

One of the fun things we did today was give at least one toy stuffed animal to each child that wanted one on their way out of the VBS. They were all donated by a family in the community that had collected them over the years and felt it was time to give them away. In fact, the mother and her 27 year old daughter who donated them came by around 9:30

tonight to visit and sell us some of her handmade bead earrings. We also had John stop by, only this time with a pot of warm pickerel that he had just prepared. We had all eaten already, but we're happy to enjoy a few pieces anyway.

About that time, we were trying to wind down from an eventful evening because after dinner a couple community women drove us on a sightseeing tour of their chain of lakes (one of which is revered as sacred and having healing waters). Getting there and back required driving through their dump but that's where we got to see the wild life, including many crows, hawks, a few bald eagles, and a couple of black bears. I might have some interesting dreams tonight! So until tomorrow, God's blessings to you, and thank you so much for holding us in prayer. May we finish the VBS well, and enjoy a great community pot-luck that we plan to host tomorrow night.

### Thursday, August 8

Preparation for the last VBS day took place this morning, and I think we all were determined to give it our best and finish well, even though we were pretty tired going into it. We had a few less in attendance, as is often the case on the last day, but those who came had fun and were blessed to finish off the Armor of God with the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. I got to don the wig and beard for our drama and play Jesus, as I've often done, this time appearing to the disciples after His resurrection and promising them the Holy Spirit. There was lots of clean up after

the last VBS activity, but some of the teens pitched on to help take down all our decorations and put away all the tables and chairs.

Once we got back home to the church, we crashed a bit, but also started into the sorting and inventorying that we always do of our supplies so that we know what we've got for the next time. We also started into food preparation for our Volunteer potluck supper. John made baked beans with bacon and I fried up some pickerel that we were given by a local friend, Alphonse. When others arrived they brought caribou stew, caribou stir-fry, bannock, cranberry sauce, salads, cakes and cookies. It was quite a feast for a couple dozen people of all ages.

Afterwards everyone lingered and talked for quite some time, including the kids who engaged in a couple rowdy card games that eventually turned into, among other things, a kickball game just outside of the church grounds. We played until after 10:00 pm and we're still planning to go outside



about 1:00 am and see if we can see the northern lights. I'll let you know what, if anything, we see.

### Sunday, August 11

I'm writing this on the airplane flight home from Winnipeg on Sunday morning, so I'll try to get you caught up on the last few days. Friday morning was busy packing up all the LAMP resources and supplies and getting everything stowed away in a large closet until next time. Our old community friend, John, came over again too and we had nice conversation with him over coffee. Afterwards we packed up all our personal belongings and thoroughly cleaned up the rectory where we had been staying in an effort to leave it nicer than we found it, which was surely the case as the new priest is not nearly as neat a housekeeper as his predecessor was.

Around noon, our team was invited to the Band Office by the leadership for an unknown reason. Turns out they wanted to give us gifts and each of us came away with a new backpack and rain jacket that has "Northlands Dene" imprinted on it. We've never received gifts from the community in years past (other than fish and caribou), so this was very special. It also gave us a good chance to say thank you for their hospitality and to bid them goodbye.

The rest of the afternoon until our flight left their tiny airport about 4:40 was a long series of goodbyes with a number of community members, especially the kids and teens who tend to be more demonstrative with their feelings than the adults are. There



was some special farewell gifting of caps and LAMP sweatshirts, and various other little expressions of affection. Some adults told us they don't like to say goodbye, but there are always a couple special friends who go with us to the airport and watch until our plane is out of sight.

***Our departure was all the more poignant and tearful this time as Dana and I have decided to retire from the traveling team, and John and Ailene Buchtrup have too.***

Dana has visited this remote reserve about 15 times now since 2011, and with our upcoming Sabbatical for about a quarter of 2025, it seems like the time is right. "For everything there is a season."

We all pray that we have made a difference in some significant ways in the lives of these dear people, and I think I can speak for anyone who has ever been on the team in saying that we've left our heart in Lac Brochet.

Handwritten signature of Paul Schuman.



# 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*



## Ready to have some fun??

Do not forget to save Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> for an old-fashioned church picnic at Schrier Park in Portage. Signups are online at [mightymessengers.org](https://mightymessengers.org), or fill out an RSVP form located in the Communication Center. Forms are available along with a box to enclose your meal preferences. You can select from Pulled Pork, Pulled Chicken, or All Beef Hot

Dogs. Please RSVP by September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Bring your lawn chair and relax at this low-key event. There will be plenty to keep the kids busy. For those who like to enjoy that lawn chair, The Board of Parish Education will be sponsoring a competitive Bingo match with white elephant prizes! Rumor has it that St Michael might be there to show us how to slay a dragon. Plan to enjoy the day with some fun, food, and fellowship. Watch for future details....





Hi Lovers,

This year will be our 35th annual Veterans' Renewal at "The Shack". Good food & great banana splits served in the evenings (this in itself is worth the stay). The Shack is located about 6 miles west of White Cloud or about 45 minutes north of Grand Rapids (check out their website at [www.shackcountryinn.com](http://www.shackcountryinn.com)).

Our annual renewals have historically been for previously encountered couples to enjoy fellowship and build our marriage relationship through presentations, teachings, sharing time, videos, and prayer time. **"A Marriage Renewal" is for any couple who have attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend and would now like to invite a friend or family married couple to join them for this enriching experience.** It runs from Friday evening, 7:00 p.m. to Sunday afternoon about 12:00 noon. We also have considerable free time to be together as a couple, check out the trails on the property, visit a nearby winery, relax, and get to know M.E. couples. Cost includes 2 nights lodging, Friday dinner, all meals on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, and all materials. Sunday lunch is \$13 per person if you wish to stay following the program. **This years' program is in the works and will no doubt be great as usual!**

### TO RESERVE A SPOT:

Follow this link - <https://resnexus.com/resnexus/reservations/group/383BA1C4-8D59-4ACA-8625-B5B93CB1FE41?GID=4d1773f6-6229-49d8-8db1-7bf9852e084c>, and choose the room you would like. (They accept Visa, Mastercard & Discover cards). You will need to pay a 25% deposit. Be sure to check out the cancellation policy (it has changed). and sign the Liability & Policy form.

**Then, call or e-mail us to let us know you have registered and provide us with your contact information: Your names, address, phone #, & E-mail address.**

The facility has a block of 25 rooms reserved for the Marriage Renewal, let's see if we can fill them up! Register soon if you plan to attend. If we do not fill 20 rooms, the cost will increase by 5%. As of **September 17**, any unreserved rooms will be released. Registrations after that date will be accepted only if rooms are still available. If you have **special needs or desire a certain room type register early.** **Brian & Donna Zelner will be contacting everyone two weeks out to confirm registration of room and whether you will be staying for Sunday lunch.**

**If you are a Marriage Encounter widow or widower and would like to join in the fun & fellowship to stay connected with your M.E. friends, these are your options:**

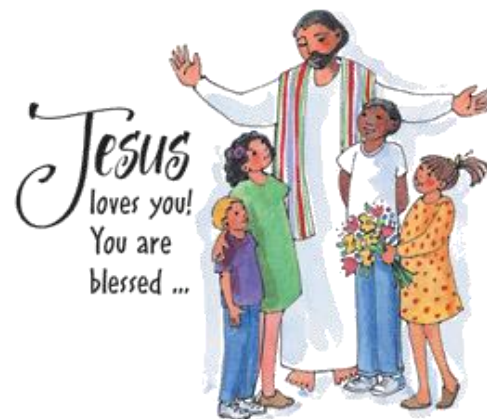
Come on Saturday morning and spend the day: \$55 which includes lunch, dinner & banana splits.

Come for Saturday and spend the night: Cost will be one night's stay and will include lunch, dinner, banana splits and breakfast on Sunday morning. If you wish to stay for lunch on Sunday the cost will be \$13. **You will need to call The Shack to make your reservation 231-924-6683 – Do not use the link above!**

**Come join us for this celebration.** If you have questions, contact us: **Brian & Donna Zelner 269-226-4703, [dwzsearch@gmail.com](mailto:dwzsearch@gmail.com)**

## "A Marriage Renewal 2024"

DATE: November 1-3, 2024  
PLACE: "The Shack", Jugville, MI



## 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 616-355-9000	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

# 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*



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LIFE. THE OTHER CHOICE.

## Join MiGen Leads

With back-to-school in full swing, now is the perfect time for high schools students and college students to create or join a MiGen Leads group.

MiGen Leads is a broad group of students from all backgrounds and walks of life committed to advocating for a choice for life and supporting women in need. If you are a student or you know a student going back to school and looking to make a difference within their community, please reach out to Right to Life of Michigan's MiGen Leads Coordinator, Jazlyn Bailey, at [jbailey@rtl.org](mailto:jbailey@rtl.org), or call (616) 523-2300.

Best friends, Mike and Dave, were out one morning fishing in their favorite spot. The action was pretty light, and they got to talking. Mike said, “We just finished our estate plan last week and now we don’t have to think about it or talk about it ever again.” Dave said, “Have you talked with your children about it?” Mike said, “No, my wife doesn’t want to upset them.”

Dave said, “Are you sure that’s the right decision? Don’t you want to share with them your dreams about what their inheritance can accomplish in their lives, blessing them with God’s gifts? And didn’t you guys leave a gift to the endowment at Church to provide scholarships to make sure children can keep going to the Lutheran School regardless of their economic level? You should tell them why that is important so that they can celebrate it with you. Otherwise, they might not understand and might even fight your plans after the Lord has called you home.” “But,” Mike replied, “How do you sit down for that conversation?” Dave thought for a moment and said, “I bet an LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor could help you line up what you want to share with them, maybe even give you an illustration to share with them.”

Family conversations can be tough, especially if life has caused some separation, or it has been a while since you talked about deep things with your children. But pray to the Lord for guidance, seeing the value of faith witness and faithful stewardship that such conversations can provide. Would you like some help? Contact...

**LCMSFoundation**  
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Julie Burgess  
[Julie.burgess@lfnd.org](mailto:Julie.burgess@lfnd.org)



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF COLLECTION TIME IS NEAR

When you think about the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, or all that is going on in Israel, do you ever think of what the people living there are going through? Consider all the items they don't have at their disposal as a result of these wars, like clothes, soap, diapers for their babies, blankets, towels, toothbrushes, and school supplies for kids. These are all things we often take for granted.



Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is one of the agencies that helps to supply the people, and many others around the world, with the items during their time of need. St. Michael is one of many Lutheran churches that helps to collect clothes, diapers, blankets, towels, toothbrushes, and school supplies and makes kits to give to LWR, so they can give them to the people who need them.

St. Michael has been the LWR collection point for area Lutheran churches since the 1980's, started by Pastor Allan. Every October, we've made sure there was some sort of truck in our parking lot with people there to load boxes onto it. Then as many as 20 area churches, would bring all the kits and quilts they made to St. Michael to put on the truck along with our donations. This truck is taken to a consolidation site in Grand Rapids and the boxes transferred to big semis who transport them to LWR's warehouse in Maryland. From there the boxes are distributed all over the world.

For St. Michael all of this takes close to 100 volunteers over a year's time to do. We have knitters of baby sweaters and hats, sewers of quilts, baby blankets, school bags, and diapers (*we make diapers from t-shirts*). We have assemblers of baby care kits, health kits, school bags. (We usually let the school children assemble the school bags.) We have Thrivent members who help to get some grant money we then use to buy the school and health supplies. (*We need more of these!*) Also, we have the people that work the truck, and those that help to move boxes from here to there once they are packed. And I must state here that MICHELE RYAN is the coordinator of it all and has been for about 20 years! *God bless her!!*

I also can't leave out all those people who have donated the items we needed or money to help. Please don't stop this or we might have to ask for a line item in the budget! I also need to ask for people to help with the truck again this year on October 12<sup>th</sup> and to ask the youth to help on the 13<sup>th</sup>, as they usually do. If you can help that Saturday from 9 to noon, please let me know at church, or text me at 269-580-5830.



Thank you,

*Jan Jett*



## CARING Connections

*"Not with eye service, or as man pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart...." Ephesians 6:6*

Each month members of Caring Connections and Women's Fellowship coordinate an effort to make a difference to our church members. Be it a card, personal note of encouragement or help with a special request or meal, members have let those in need know they are loved and cared about. None of this could be accomplished without the help of so many of you that contribute your time, talents, and cooking skills. You are the servants of God who make this happen. A special thank you for all the blessings you have faithfully provided for those in need. It may seem like a small thing for you, but for many it makes all the difference in the world. Through your actions you have blessed us all.

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**If you would like to hold a meeting within the St. Michael building, please be sure to contact the Church Office and schedule the event in advance.** This helps to identify what areas need the most immediate attention for cleaning, and to avoid multiple groups expecting to use the same space. It also, gives us some idea of who would be in the building, if by chance there were to be an emergency. Thank you for your cooperation!

# 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  
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### **ASSISTANT PASTOR**

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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

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Mark Ruesch

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Rob Kuhlmann

### **TREASURER**

Kristi Rudowske

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Mark Vickery, Assistant Director

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Mike Grotelueschen, Director  
Matt Colby, Assistant Director

## **BOARD OF SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

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Vacant, Assistant Director

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Dan Marshall, Director

### **VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Vacant, Chairman

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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## **BOARD OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT**

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### **YOUTH GROUP LEADERS**

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## **BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY**

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### **ALTAR GUILD**

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### **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

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### **CRADLE ROLL**

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### **LIFE SKILLS CLASSES**

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Julie Vickery, Rick Jacobs