



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

JULY 2025

Volume 64, Number 7



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

“A Little Pastoral Flight of Fancy”

Summer is a great time of year to be in Michigan. Of course It's been pretty hot lately, but not as hot as it is down in Florida. I happen to know that firsthand, as I've taken two trips to Florida in the last four weeks in order to help out my 95 year old mother. As Memorial Day began she was found on the floor of her bedroom, taken to the hospital, and ultimately into a nursing home for rehab. My first trip down was to help her move from the hospital into rehab. The most recent trip was to help her move from rehab into a new residence in Cape Coral. I moved her into a different place than what she had been residing in for the last five years, because they were not able to assure me they could meet her needs indefinitely, whereas the new place gave me confidence they could, even as the amount of care she requires increases. The new place, a beautiful facility, with very fine people who work there, which is really the most important part of all. I'm grateful that I was able to get away to go down there and help her through these traumatic transitions. Thank you for putting up with my absence.

These most recent trips once again got me on multiple airplanes and airlines, and interacting with a number of flight attendants. As I watched them in action and more or less listened to what they rattled off on the sound system, it occurred to me that their airline profession is not unlike my own profession as a pastor. For one thing, they do a lot of talking over a microphone that, frankly, most people aren't really paying attention to. It's not that what they have to say isn't important, it's just that most everyone has heard it before and know what they are going to say. “Fasten your seatbelts... stow your tray tables... be sure your seat backs are in their upright and locked position... etc.” But sometimes what they have to say could be vitally important for your very survival, like where the exits are located, where the life preservers are, and of course there are those oxygen masks that will drop down “in the unlikely event that we lose cabin pressure.” By the way, many a pastor has used as an illustration about the importance of self-care the instruction to put your own oxygen mask on first before attempting to help anyone else with theirs.

Like a flight attendant, pastors also give information and instructions into a microphone that most people have heard many times before and so they don't really pay much attention to them. Take for example

after the initial welcome, how we tell you to fill out the attendance card in the pew rack, using the QR code if you like, or if you're tuning in on YouTube to our livestream, to fill out the online attendance form. We also tell you when to sit or stand, even though you probably know already, and what page we are on in the hymnal even though you can see the words on the big screens.

We also say Spiritual things that you might have heard so many times before that you might glaze over. Like, we tell you that you're a sinner who has sinned against God in thought, word, and deed, both by what you have done and by what you have left undone. We also tell you that in spite of your sin God still loves you, and has given His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into death on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins and has raised Him from the dead for your eternal salvation. You may have heard all that before, but that doesn't mean it's not still vitally important, and really a matter of life and death not just temporally, but eternally. So pastors are not ashamed of it. Like St. Paul said, the Gospel is always “the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes it” (Romans 1:16).

Another parallel between flight attendants and pastors is that we both strive to serve you with a smile, caring for your needs and helping you to relax and enjoy the flight. Truth be told, we both come along and offer to dispose of your unwanted items as needed. Also, in addition to being your servants, we have been given the authority to tell you what to do – “stow your personal item all the way under the seat in front of you... put your electronic devices on airplane mode. . .” and while you're at it, “read your Bible... worship regularly... give sacrificially... volunteer with VBS... and join a small group.” So thank you for flying with St. Michael Lutheran Church and School. We sincerely hope (and pray) you will continue with us, joyfully joining us in serving and caring for one another, and reaching out to a lost world until Christ returns and, by His grace, we “meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).



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.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturdays at 5:00pm - *Informal Worship*

Sundays at 8:30am - *with the organ and Lutheran Service Book hymnal*

Sundays at 11:00am - *Contemporary Worship*

Holy Communion: The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered at Lamplight the Saturday before a second or fourth Sunday; at 8:30am on second and fourth (and fifth) Sundays; at 11:00am on first and third (and fifth) Sundays

Supervised child care is provided throughout Sunday morning worship services.

During the Learning Hour (9:45AM-10:45AM)

Sunday School is available for kids Preschool to High School, and Adults too!



Bowling Tournament

Sunday, September 28th

1 to 5 PM

Airway Fun Center

Watch for more information!

Tuition Sponsors Needed

St. Michael Lutheran School currently has two families with multiple children that have attended our program for a number of years. Both of these families have experienced personal hardships that have produced challenging circumstances, disrupting their lives and bringing financial burdens. Both families qualify for and receive tuition assistance, but under the current circumstances that is not enough to allow them to continue to attend our program in the fall.

I am making an appeal to anyone who is willing to sponsor a portion or all of the tuition balance, or make a contribution toward that tuition balance for one or both of these families. It is important to keep these children in a stable learning environment, as they go through this challenging season. If you have an interest in helping in this way or making a contribution, please let me know.

Greg Johnson, Principal



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

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly..."

Colossians 3:16

Who can still remember their childhood phone number? I sure can! In fact, if I wanted to call apartment 6A at Concordia Seminary, I could pick up the phone and surprise whoever happens to be living there right now. I remember that phone number because my parents made us memorize it - a skill required before the dawn of cell phones. Even as a 2nd grader, I had that number committed to heart (as well as, my 1st grade and preschool siblings).

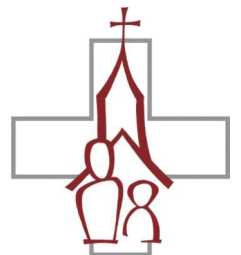
It's incredible how God created human beings with "fearfully and wonderfully made" minds. We have such a huge capacity to take things to heart, bear things in mind, and remember people, places, and facts long after others have gone. If you've ever had an elderly member of your family living with dementia, you know that this loved one can recall things from many years ago, even after many other faces and facts have faded.

The Holy Spirit tells us to "let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly". The Word of God is the most important thing you can commit to heart and memory, and it is the most crucial truth parents should pass to their children. In the end, the Word of God is what will endure forever, even after everything else has withered and disappeared (Isaiah 40:8).

Today, open your Bibles and read. Download a Bible app and listen (most are free!). If you're looking for a place to start, search "daily Bible lectionary" and you'll find a few short readings to reflect on. The Word of God will not fail you! And believe it or not, if you find it hard to make this a daily habit, you are not alone. It's hard because the Devil does not want you to read God's Word. He'd rather you do anything else.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will keep you in His Word, and gladly hear and learn it! God loves you, and He wants you to dwell in the richness of His Word so that your faith can increase and your trust in Him will grow.

Pastor Maske



Hear Me

July 6, 2025 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Shayne Jonker - It's all about the sending. The Father sends Jesus. Likewise, Jesus sends disciples as His apostles. And this sending of the seventy-two is one of the foundation stones of the Office of the Holy Ministry. His words are their words. "The one who hears you, hears me" (Luke 10:16 ESV). You have Jesus' Word on it, and His Word is sure.

Sermon Text: Luke 10:16

Readings: Psalm 66:1-9; Isaiah 66:10-14; Luke 10:1-20

Featured Choirs: LWML Indiana District Choir

Featured Art and Architecture: Mamrelund Lutheran Church, Stanton, Iowa

What Do You See?

July 13, 2025 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. William Mueller - The Parable of the Good Samaritan is a well-known and much-loved parable of Jesus. But are we missing something important if we only see a message of "love your neighbor" in it? Could this parable be a sort of theological Rorschach test? Take a deeper dive into this parable to see some truly amazing grace!

Sermon Text: Luke 10:25-37

Readings: Psalm 41; Leviticus 19:9-18; Luke 10:25-37

Featured Choir: Holy Cross Lutheran Treble Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Zion Lutheran Church, Atlantic, Iowa

Making Good Choices

July 20, 2025 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Paul Shoemaker - Every parent admonishes their child to "make good choices." God also wants us, His children, to make good choices. Join us on Worship Anew as we answer the question, "What is a good choice in the eyes of God?"

Sermon Text: Luke 10:38-42

Readings: Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 18:1-10a; Luke 10:38-42

Featured Choir: Lincoln Lutheran High School Choir, Lincoln, Neb.; Zion Lutheran of Woodburn, Ind. and Mt. Calvary Lutheran of Antwerp, Ohio Adult Choir

Featured Art and Architecture: Trinity Lutheran Church, Winterset, Iowa

Lord, Teach us to Pray

July 27, 2025 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Scott Zeckzer - God calls us to get to know Him. He has a big surprise of what He wants us to call Him. He also has a big surprise of what He wants us to talk about with Him.

Sermon Text: Luke 11:1

Readings: Psalm 138; Genesis 18:17-33; Luke 11:1-13

Featured Choir: St. Paul Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. John Gospel Light Chorus, Plymouth, Wis.

Featured Art and Architecture: Faith Lutheran Church, Orange City, Iowa



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](#)
- ◆ Total Christian Television (TCT) network nationwide broadcast. Locally, you should find it at 11:30 am ET on WJPG-LD 26 in Kalamazoo and WTLJ54 in Battle Creek.

We remember to pray for Homebound friends:

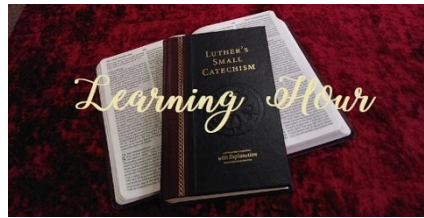
Pastor Ken & Jan Allan,
Caroline Barkow, Sally Beck,
Thomas Boelcke, Judy Chumas, Shirley Cosgrove,
Ginny Evans, Audrey Glover,
Virgil Harrison, Bernie & Pauline Kubacki, Sandy Lentz,
Nancy Miller, Jim & Dean Monck, Joan Pfister, Wilma Ritchie, Vic Schroeder, Marilyn Sible, Ernie & Judi VanOrman, Sharon White

DISCIPLESHIP

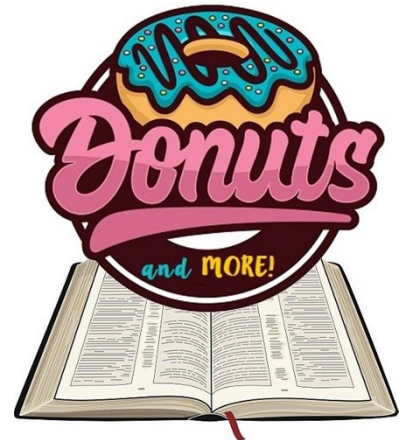
Christian education is vital to our Spiritual health and growth.

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



9:45-10:45 AM + Sunday Mornings
Bible Study, Donuts and Fellowship
together in the Gym



- 7/6 - Pastor Naumann - "Christ in the Old Testament"
- 7/13 - Pastor Naumann - "Christ in the Old Testament"
- 7/20 - Serving Challenge 1 w/Pastor Naumann
- 7/27 - Serving Challenge 2 w/Pastor Naumann
- 8/3 - Serving Challenge 3 w/Pastor Naumann
- 8/10 - Serving Challenge 4 w/Pastor Naumann
- 8/17 - Serving Challenge 5 w/Pastor Naumann
- 8/24 - Serving Challenge 6 w/Pastor Naumann



Join us - JULY 13 - after late service

We will be celebrating the mid-way point in our challenge to read the Scriptures in a year.

This is another opportunity for Kids and Adults to "Ask the Pastors" some of the questions that have come to mind as you have been reading.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us,
"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).



ADULTS



KIDS

Remember to share your tally!

At this event, we will also have a celebration with cake to honor the 40th Anniversary of Pastor Naumann's Ordination into Ministry. This is a special moment for all of the congregation to join in sharing your joy. We hope you will make plans to be there!



July Calendar of Events:

Sunday, July 6

9:45 am Coffee Club

5:00 pm No Youth Group

Holiday Weekend

Sunday, July 13

9:45 am Bible Study

5:00 pm NYG Family Meeting

July 19-24

Many students at National Youth Gathering this week

Sunday, July 27

9:45 am Bible Study & NYG Report

5:00 pm Youth Group

For more information or questions, please contact Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez at worden.cait@gmail.com or 313.914.9187

Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

The Gathering is more than the five days of the event. The preparation process for the Gathering brings together young people and supportive adults to encourage each other in their baptismal identity. The Gathering provides young people a vision for the vastness of Christ's Church and equips them for vocational service as they continue their walk with Jesus.

This event is organized by LCMS Youth Ministry in Saint Louis, MO.



LCMS National Youth Gathering 2025

Meet our Youth!



Autum Kahle

9th grade at Mattawan High School

Favorite Bible Verse: Psalm 23:6
"The reason why I want to go to the National Youth Gathering is to grow closer to God and get deeper into His Word, while being surrounded by other kids our age. It looks like a cool and powerful environment."

Betsy Doubblestein

8th grade at SMLS

"I want to go to Gathering because I want to meet other Christians like me. I'm excited to make friends and to explore."



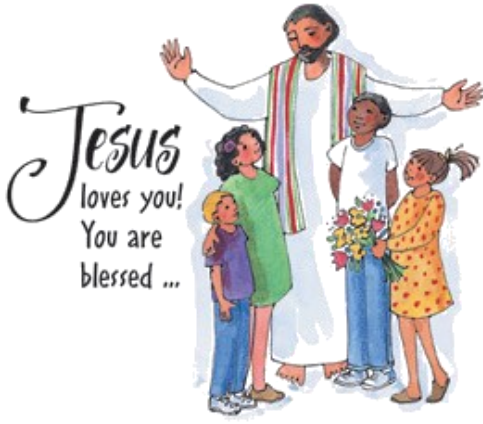
Elijah Graham

8th grade at SMLS

Favorite Bible Verse:

Matthew 5:44

"I want to go to the NYG to make life long friends, also to grow in my faith with the Lord."



SHEPHERD GROUPS

Lay Minister	Family Names Start with	Family Names & include
Kerry Batten 269-491-8128	A	Boelman
Harold DeFouw 269-569-6869	Bohren	Chenevare
Rich Conklin 616-889-0201	Chilcott	D
Jeff Lauterbach 269-578-6415	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	K	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



Ezekiel Iqbal

9th grade at Portage Northern
Favorite Bible Verse: Psalm 91
"I want to go to National Youth Gathering to grow spiritually in Christ and to meet new people, to also have fun with other Christians."

Ivy Bigelow

8th grade at SML S
Favorite Bible Verse: Psalm 1:3
"I hope to grow closer to God during the National Youth Gathering. I like to do art. I love being with my friends, that's why I think I'll have so much fun at the NYG."



Johnathan Shook

11th grade at Vicksburg High School
Favorite Bible Verse: Micah 7:8
"I would like to go to the NYG in order to grow in my faith and get to know those around me better."

Julia Shook

9th grade at Vicksburg High School
Favorite Bible Verse:
Hebrews 12:1
"I want to go to the Youth Gathering, because it gives me a chance to explore and deepen my faith."





Leilani Cowgill
9th grade at Paw Paw
High School
Favorite Bible Verse:
Matthew 6:25
“I want to go to NYG to grow
closer to God.”



Sameer Admadzai
10th Grade at
Kalamazoo Central
Favorite Bible Verse:
John 11:35
I am a first generation
immigrant. I want to go to NYG
because I want to know more
about Jesus and the Church. I
want to make more Christian
friends.

Luke Quardokus
9th grade at
Portage Northern
Favorite Bible Verse:
Ephesians 2:8-9
“I would like to go to the NYG to
grow in my faith, meet new
people and grow closer to God.”



Merab Iqbal
12th grade at
Portage Northern
“I want to go to Gathering to
make new connections and
interact with people who are
similar to me and share my
faith.”



Peter Hughes
8th grade at SML S
Confirmation verse:
Philippians 1:20
“I want to go to Gathering
because I want to meet new
people and have new life
experiences.”



Owen Heimlich
9th grade at
Portage Central
“I would like to go to the
National Youth Gathering to
grow in faith and meet other
Christians.”

Michael Wallace
8th grade at SML S
will also join the group.

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

STEPHEN MINISTRY WELCOMES TWO TO THE TEAM

A heart for serving our church and serving other people led our newest Stephen Ministers to commit to training and joining our Stephen Ministry team. **Ann Olson** and **Karen Taylor**, both commissioned during church services May 24-25, are now able to offer Christ-focused support to those going through difficult circumstances.



Ann Olson and Karen Taylor (second and third from left) are accompanied by Stephen Leaders Lynda Rea, Dana Naumann, and Pastor Paul Naumann

For 18 years, **Ann** and her family attend the Saturday night Lamplight service, where sons Aiden and Andrew and husband Mike have volunteered in the sound, audio equipment and camera booth. She also reads Scripture during Lamplight on occasion. While the family has participated in various Bible studies at St. Michael over the years, Ann now joyfully attends the Thursday morning ladies' group. A full-time wife and mom, Ann volunteered at St. Michael Lutheran School when her sons attended from preschool-8th grade. Ann and Mike were both born and raised in Minnesota, with family and friends that they stay connected with there. They live in Kalamazoo.

“I felt drawn to Stephen Ministry to serve and care for people,” Ann says. “I felt it was the right time in my life to train and go forward to become a Stephen Minister.”

A member of St. Michael for 35 years, **Karen** is actively involved in church life, as a member of a prayer chain and a women's Bible study group, a participant in the meal train and is a member of the Board of Early Childhood and School Ministries. She and her husband, Jon, will celebrate their 26th wedding anniversary this month. They have two sons, Jaron, 23, and Jasper, 21. Karen is a retired biology, chemistry and math teacher who worked in three school districts. She also volunteered as the eighth-grade algebra teacher at St. Michael for many years. Karen loves cooking, camping, and enjoying the lake and family time. Born and raised in Monroe, Michigan. Her family lives on Bankson Lake between Schoolcraft and Lawton.

“I joined Stephen Ministry to serve as God's instrument in helping those in need of some extra care, Karen says. “I always tell my boys to go out and show God's love in this world, this is one way that I can do that.”

If you'd like to request a Stephen Minister, call a Leader, such as Lynda Rea at 269-589-8447, or the church office.

NEW THINGS HAPPENING FOR SMLS THIS FALL ...

With the addition of a new staff member and increasing enrollment, the middle school is being restructured to have stand-alone classrooms for the first time.

Miss Megan Cummins

Fifth Grade – mcummins@mightymessengers.org



"The Lord himself will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:14

I grew up in Portage, Michigan graduating from Portage Central in 2018. I then started out at Kalamazoo Valley Community College before transferring to Western Michigan University (Go Broncos!), where I graduated in April 2024 with a degree in early childhood elementary education. In my free time, I enjoy reading, cooking, baking, taking walks, paddle-boarding, watching Netflix, playing board games and spending time with friends and family. My favorite subjects to teach are social studies and reading/writing. I feel very blessed and thankful that God has led me to teach at Saint Michael.



*Education with Christ
at the heart of it.*

Mrs. Emily Lauterbach

Sixth Grade – STEM – elauterbach@mightymessengers.org



"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19a

I began my teaching career at St. Michael in 2010 following my graduation from Grand Valley State University. Where I earned a Bachelors in Science and my teaching certificate. I later went on to receive my Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University, Portland. As well as, my Lutheran Teacher Diploma. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to work at St. Michael Lutheran School. I love the fact that I can combine my two passions in life; my faith in Jesus Christ and my love of teaching.

Ms. Julie Prentice

Seventh Grade – jprentice@mightymessengers.org



"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground." Psalm 143:10

I attended Western Michigan University and then Southeastern Oklahoma State University graduating with an Elementary Education Major along with a Minor in Language Arts. I started my teaching career after my 2 children started school. I taught 4th grade in San Jose, CA. I then relocated and taught in Rochester, MN for 2 years of 5th grade and 10 years of 3rd grade. I then moved back to my roots here in Kalamazoo and was blessed to be able to continue to work in a Lutheran school sharing God's word. Besides teaching, I enjoy spending time with family, hiking, reading, traveling, and training/showing dogs.

Mrs. Lisa Lam

Eighth Grade – llam@mightymessengers.org



"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

I was born and raised in Grand Haven, MI. I moved to Kalamazoo in 2001 and received my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Western Michigan University in 2004. I began my career at St. Michael Lutheran in 2001 as a childcare worker. When I graduated in 2004, I directed the childcare and taught 3rd grade. In my time here I have taught grades 3-5, as well as teaching Spanish to grades K-5 and Algebra I. Working at St. Michael is a tremendous blessing.

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



Dear St. Michael Community,

We're excited to share that from August 7–16, a team of school leaders and team members will be traveling to Lac Brochet, Canada, for our annual academic and missionary trip. This year marks a meaningful transition, as it will be the first time the trip is not led by Dana. We're incredibly grateful for her years of leadership and the foundation she's built.

Taking on leadership this year is Zach Button, one of our returning team members is joined by fellow returning member Jay Koski, and three new team members: Brandon, Chloe, and Hanin. This young and enthusiastic group is eager to learn, serve, and grow together as they step into this opportunity.

We'll be working with the True North curriculum, which feels especially fitting for a community that truly lives in the "True North." Our hope is that the curriculum will support meaningful connections, mutual learning, and shared growth between our team and the Lac Brochet community.

Please keep the team in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for this important journey. We're looking forward to what this new generation of leaders will bring—and what they'll carry home.

With gratitude,
The 2025 Lac Brochet Team



Our Community is invited to a
Block-Party Style One-Day Vacation Bible School
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2nd

Bring your children as a "family group"
(at least one adult and up to five kids as participants)

OR, sign kids up to meet new friends and enjoy the rotation sites
with a volunteer leader! *Don't know others attending?*

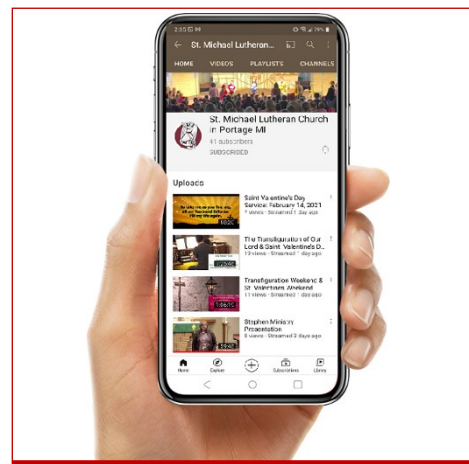
It's OK. We will help connect everyone.

Get Registered Now!
mightymessengers.org/vbs



We are planning for a bible times marketplace, as the backdrop of the day's activities. Volunteers are needed to wander around in appropriate attire. We might see the original Pottery Barn, Rock Quarry, a Wool & Cloth Shop, Ancient Grains or Fruit of the Spirit Snack Shops, a Synagogue School, or a Carpentry Shop.

There are a few things we would love to borrow, or have donated if you are ready for them to have a new owner. We will be good stewards and share with others following the event... *Pop-up Canopy Tents, Drapery Fabric, Sheets, Cushions, Decorative Throw Rugs, Tablecloths, Lanterns, Pottery, Goblets, Baskets, Wooden Crates, Decorative or Wooden Bowls and Platters, Scarves, Tunic-style Dresses, Dry Fruit & Spices, Oil Decanter, Olives, Rice, Beans, woodworking tools, Greek or Hebrew artifacts, etc.*



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:

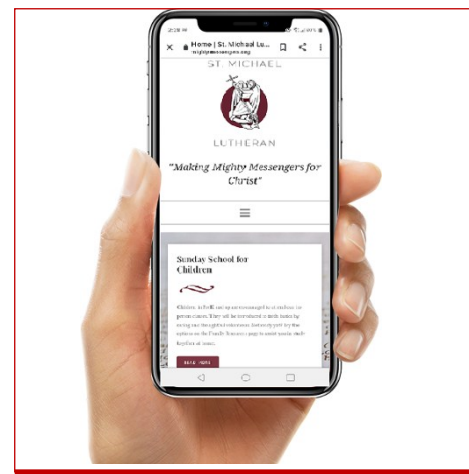
Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

mightymessengers.org

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



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



Ask and you shall receive...

ITS GAME NIGHT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Coming to the SMLC gym

Friday, July 11th, 2025 at 6pm.

Various table and board games will be available to play, snacks will be provided, and maybe even a door prize or two. Come for the fellowship, fun, and food.

Please RSVP to Kathy Zakarias via email (k5zakarias17@gmail.com) or phone (815-519-2181) or sign up in the communication center after July 1st. When RSVP your attendance, please indicate what game you are most interested in playing and if you have a game you can bring to share. We hope to see you there!!!

Card Drive

Raise your hand if you like receiving mail that isn't a bill or junk?



Did you know that the Board of Parish Fellowship/Women's Fellowship and other individuals regularly mail birthday, thinking of you, sympathy, and get well cards to homebound and other members of the congregation? If you are interested in helping with this outreach please consider bringing in cards (boxes or singles) for various occasions to help offset costs. If you would like to make a specific donation to go towards the cost of cards that is also an option. Please consider helping us continue to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

GENERAL INFORMATION

FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN - Sunday Morning Classes are available during the 9:45 AM Learning Hour. Mondays 3:15-4:30 PM Kid's Knitting Group. Wednesdays 5:15-6:30 PM Life Skills Class.

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 5:30 PM; Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings at 5:00-7:00 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, unless holidays fall within the last week of the 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

11/1/2024 - 5/31/2025

Church Revenue	\$ 504,701
School Revenue	\$ <u>746,203</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,250,903
Total Expenses	\$ <u>1,197,993</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 52,910
Expense Budget	\$1,235,612
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 15,291
Working Cash Balance	\$ 76,919
Mortgage Balance	\$ 627,604

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$737,595
Building Contingency	\$ 34,766
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 30,000
HVAC	\$ 853
Technology Refresh	\$ 4,172
Sunday School	\$ 1,818
Youth Donations	\$ 5,139
Youth Accounts	\$ 12,298
Good Samaritan	\$ 2,583
Memorials	\$ 16,959
Fellowship	\$ 1,616
Champion Church Network	\$ 381
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 9,049
Quilting	\$ 1,734
POBLO South Asia Ministry	\$ 16,596
Student Debt Fund	\$ 3,185
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 755
Luth Medical Emergency Fund	\$ 250
School Improvements	\$ 18,993
Tuition Assistance	\$ 43,086
School Music	\$ 5,153
School Sports	\$ 643
Flower Fund	\$ 5,202
Building Utilization	\$(18,416)
LWML	\$ 3,174
Women's Fellowship	\$ 1,495
Faith Budget	\$ -

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Annual Avg. 2024 351

March '25 Avg. 419

April '25 Avg. 533

May '25 Avg. 373

June '25 Avg. 352

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

BUSINESS & FINANCE MANAGER

Jay Koski
jkoski@mightymessengers.org

CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT CHILD MINISTRY COORDINATOR AND RECORDING SECRETARY

Tammy Songer
tsonger@mightymessengers.org

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Greg Johnson
gjohnson@mightymessengers.org

SCHOOL SECRETARY

Sharon Robinson

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Brenda Heintz

FIRST GRADE TEACHER

Maralyse Worm

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

Annie Hecht

THIRD GRADE TEACHER

Jennifer Humbarger

FOURTH GRADE TEACHER

Dawn Heid

FIFTH GRADE TEACHER

Emily Lauterbach

SIXTH GRADE TEACHER

Julie Prentice

SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER

Lisa Lam

CHRIST FOR KIDS CHILDCARE DIRECTOR

Emily Ritchie
eritchie@mightymessengers.org

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

Becky Mohler Cheryl Julian
Jessica Lonc Alicia Keinath

WORSHIP MEDIA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Chris Rudowske

WORSHIP MEDIA SPECIALIST

Lorraine Dudash

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Carolyn Bertrand

ORGANIST

Keith Eiser

MORNING SONG DIRECTOR

Jane Connon

VOLUNTEERS:

PRESIDENT

Mark Ruesch

VICE PRESIDENT

Rob Kuhlmann

TREASURER

Vacant

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTIES

Ryan Nelson, Director
Mark Vickery, Assistant Director

BOARD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD & SCHOOL MINISTRIES

Mike Grotelueschen, Director
Matt Colby, Assistant Director

BOARD OF SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Vacant, Director
Vacant, Assistant Director

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Dan Marshall, Director

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Vacant, Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vacant, Chairman

BOARD OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

Vacant, Director
Jerry Kuss, Jeff Burnett

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

Mark Kahle, Director
Greg Wedel, Assistant Director

ALTAR GUILD

Kristi Rudowske, Linda Fry

LECTORS

Virginia Hetrick, Jan Chilcott

PRAYER MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Barbara Schubert, Virginia Hetrick

USHERS

Mike Minger - Early Service
Jesse Hogue - Late Service

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS

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

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Lane Bertrand, Pam Sward, Karen Taylor
Zachary Button, Peter Robert, Ann Olson
Bill Semrau, Kathy Zakarias

BOARD OF EVANGELISM & MISSIONS

Vacant, Director
Kathie Seufert, Assistant Director

GREETERS

Arlene Groll, Mark & Jan Chilcott

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

Vacant, Director
Nonie Knight, Assistant Director

ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Jesse Hogue

CRADLE ROLL

Jan Jett

LIFE SKILLS CLASSES

Mary Wright

BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Diane Gibson, Director
Judy Schroeder, Assistant Director

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP / LWML

Kathy Zakarias

SPORTS MINISTRY

Shannon Miskovich

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Todd Foster, Dave Johnson, Rick Jacobs
Julie Vickery, Rob Kuhlman