



# THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

AUGUST 2025

Volume 64, Number 8



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



## **“TRULY GETTING AHEAD”**

Never a month goes by when we don't have bills to pay, or don't need to put gas in the car, or to buy groceries at the store. Every month comes with its share of expenses, but some months are more expensive than others. For example, in December we're surely going to spend more money on decorations, parties, and gifts than we might spend in other months. If your family is like mine, certain months have several birthdays, and maybe a wedding anniversary too, so again there are extra gift and party expenses. But then there are some months where you don't do anything extra or special, perhaps the months of January or February, and therefore there's hope for few if any extra expenses.

How about this month of August – is it primarily a saving or a spending month? You might be able to save a little money if you're harvesting vegetables from our own backyard and don't have to buy tomatoes, peppers, or zucchini. But you might also be spending more money on fuel and lodging if you're traveling with the family and trying to get in that last summer vacation before school resumes in the fall. Maybe you just bought a new high efficiency washing machine and you're hoping it will save money on water, but then about that same time your water heater gives out and has to be replaced with a new one. Yes, it can be hard to get ahead financially, for whenever we manage to save a few bucks in one area, we may very well end up having to spend more in another area.

While trying to get ahead financially can be prudent, it can also be frustrating. There's something to be said for just having what you need for when you need it. The Bible speaks to this, saying things like: *“Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny You and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God”* (Proverbs 30:8-9). In our Gospel readings for the first couple Sundays in August, our Lord Jesus speaks to this issue, too. On August 3, we will hear His word to the wealthy as Jesus' calls us to *“Watch out!”* and be on our guard *“against every form of greed”* for *“one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions”* (Luke 12:15). To reinforce the point, Jesus tells His famous story about the prosperous farmer who had a bumper crop, but hoarded it all to himself, even to the

point of planning to tear down his barns to build bigger ones. In the end he was a *“fool”* whose life was cut short, and who only stored up treasure for himself and was not *“rich toward God”* (Luke 12:16-21). Just as the foolish farmer thought he was really getting way ahead, he lost everything.

The other extreme is highlighted in our Gospel reading for the second weekend in August. Whereas in Luke 12:16-21, our Lord Jesus tells us not to worry about what to do with all that we have, in Luke 12:22-34 He tells us not to worry about what we don't have. He says: *“do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes”* (12:22-23). He encourages us to consider how God freely and generously provides for the birds and the flowers, and since we are of so much more worth to God than they, we really don't have anything to worry about. Even though Jesus doesn't call those who are prone to worry foolish, He nevertheless chides them for having *“little faith”* (12:28) for our loving and omniscient Heavenly Father knows what we need. He desires that we trust Him, believing that He has our best interest at heart, and that He will indeed come through for us in His good time and way.

Free from the preoccupation of worrying about all that we have or about all that we don't have, we are able to give our attention to what Jesus called earlier on in Luke's Gospel *“the one thing necessary”* (10:42), namely we can *“seek His Kingdom”* (12:31) and invest in that which lasts forever. While getting ahead in this fallen world may always allude us, Jesus promises us that working and giving toward advancing the Kingdom of God will result in *“an inexhaustible treasure in heaven”* (12:33) as more and more people will come to faith in Him as their Savior, and enjoy with us the free gift of eternal life. Now that's truly getting ahead!



# 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.

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## 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!*



The Allan and Goertz families would like to thank the St. Michael church family for their support during the past few months. While the passing of Pastor Ken is difficult, your care made such a difference. We appreciate all the meals (delicious), cards (heartfelt) and prayers (inspiring), as well as the visits and calls. We especially want to mention all the time, effort and food provided for the luncheon after Ken's service - this was truly a gift! Every interaction showed your love for our families, and especially for Ken and Jan. We look forward to thanking you in person when we next meet. In the meantime, our thanks are here for all of you in our church family and community. May you be blessed by our Lord.

*The families of Ken and Jan (Goertz) Allan*

Thank you, everyone, for celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination! Dana and I surely felt the love and affirmation in all your thoughtful cards, your kind words, your generous gifts, and in your presence at the party (for those of you who were able to make it). You know how they say that “time flies when you’re having fun,” well, that’s certainly true while having fun in ministry.

As we try to reflect back on our five years at Trinity in Oshkosh, WI, our seven years at Concordia University Wisconsin, and our over twenty-eight years with you here at St. Michael, it’s all rather overwhelming and frankly kind of blurs all together. But, we reflect upon it all with profound joy and a great deal of gratitude to God for all His grace and goodness. We are immeasurably blessed by all the love that we have received from those whose lives we have been privileged to touch, and forever grateful for the thousands of people whose lives have touched ours. Praise God for 40 years... and counting!



# WORSHIP

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

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*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*

## WORSHIP IN THE BIBLE IS ABOUT MORE THAN SINGING

Tommy Bond, Content Developer for Life Church

As I began to study the life of Jesus, I discovered worship in the Bible is about something much bigger, much deeper—and it matters for all of us. It does vary a bit in style between denominations. So, what is worship, exactly?

If worship is more than singing three songs on Sunday morning or queuing up the latest worship album on Spotify, then what is it? To answer that question, I had to reframe the way I thought. It's not simply something we do. Worship in the Bible is a way to be, a state of mind, a posture of our heart. If I wanted to experience true worship, my aim couldn't be to simply check it off a list.

Throughout Scripture, I found countless examples of worship. Often, I read of people worshiping in response to a happy event or joyous news. But sometimes, the worship happened in the midst of crushing sadness. I read about worship in temples but I also read examples of it before temples were even a thing.

Worship, I found out, isn't limited to any particular space, time of day, or emotion. No, true worship is a response—a response flowing from a sense of awe.

Think about the last time you felt a sense of awe. Maybe you felt it as you looked out over a scenic view—tree-lined mountains or the endless horizon of an ocean. Or maybe you felt it as you looked at your child for the first time? It might have been the first time you heard your favorite band play, and your life was never the same. In each of those moments, you likely had a response to that feeling of awe. You may have gasped or been unable to find any words. Maybe you spoke out loud. Or, perhaps, overwhelmed with gratitude, you thanked God in tears.

All of those responses are, strictly speaking, worship—but one of them is more powerful and life-giving than the others. Because who we worship matters, and it plays into why we worship. Why do we worship?

Ultimately, we worship because we were created that way. It's in our very DNA. The Bible shows us that God created us as deeply spiritual beings, made to experience God's love and creation with awe and wonder. When we honor God with expressions of gratitude, we're walking in our purpose. Worship is an expression of the life we were created to live.

You can certainly worship things other than God. Your response to awe can be directed at other people, things, ideas, or even yourself. You can worship money, fame, power, intelligence, possessions, and people. But, sooner or later, that kind of worship will return to you empty. You can give your worship to things all day long, but what do they give back to you? They're life-consuming, instead of life-giving.

Choosing to worship God takes intentionality—it requires a choice. When we choose to worship God, we're not only honoring Him for all He has done, but we're acknowledging our continual need for Him. We're aligning our hearts with His and putting Him back in the center of our lives, saying, "You're good, and I want to be more like You." Worshiping God puts everything into proper perspective. We engage in worship because God made us that way. And when God is the object of our worship, it keeps our hearts centered on what truly matters.



## Regarding Possessions

August 3, 2025 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Our society often seems crazed with the desire to possess: to have some new product, to increase one's earthly possessions, to grow wealthy. Christ frequently encountered this same kind of attitude, and in response, he told the parable of the foolish rich man. This parable leads each one of us to ask, "What is my view regarding possessions?"

**Sermon Text: Luke 12:13-21**

*Readings: Psalm 100; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21*

*Featured Choirs: St. John Lutheran School of Plymouth, Wis.; Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School Choir of Centralia, Ill.*

*Featured Art and Architecture: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Terril, Iowa*

## Do Not Be Anxious

August 10, 2025 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

Do you feel as if you are being stretched beyond your limits? That your world is breaking apart? God holds the entire world in His hands. He gave His Son for us. Do not be anxious!

**Sermon Text: Luke 12:22**

*Readings: Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-16; Luke 12:22-34*

*Featured Choir: St. John Lutheran School of Plymouth, Wis.*

*Featured Art and Architecture: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ames, Iowa*

## The Faith Race

August 17, 2025 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Shayne Jonker

Run the race of faith with joy and hope. Focus on Jesus. His joy was to save you. Your joy is to receive the salvation He won for you, to be welcomed at the end of your race into the open arms of your Savior, and to have Him put the victor's wreath on your head.

**Sermon Text: Luke 12:49-50**

*Readings: Psalm 119:81-88; Hebrews 11:17-31, 12:1-3; Luke 12:49-53*

*Featured Choir: Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School Choir, Centralia, Ill.; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.*

*Featured Art and Architecture: Zion Lutheran Church, Arcadia, Iowa*

## The Time is Coming

August 24, 2025 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. William Mueller

Isaiah prophesies about the last days and the gathering of believers from every nation. Who is at the center of this? How is He described as "the glory of God"? And our hearts are also searched to see if we are ready for the "outsider" to become an "insider."

**Sermon Text: Isaiah 66:18-23**

*Readings: Psalm 50:1-15; Isaiah 66:18-23; Luke 13:22-30*

*Featured Choir: St. Paul Lutheran School, Munster, Ind.; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Decatur, Ind.*

*Featured Art and Architecture: Faith Lutheran Church, Cumming, Ga.*

## It's Hard to Be Humble

August 31, 2025 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Paul Shoemaker

It's hard to be humble. Our pride encourages us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought. Our Lord Jesus humbled Himself and became like we are, yet without sin. In His humility He won for us the gift of life eternal. He encourages us to put aside our pride and, like Him, live a life of humble service.

**Sermon Text: Luke 14:1-14**

*Readings: Psalm 131; Proverbs 25:2-10; Luke 14:1-14*

*Featured Choir: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Decatur, Ind.; Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Centralia, Ill.*

*Featured Art and Architecture: Lake George Lutheran Chapel, Fremont, Ind.*



TV MINISTRY YOU

CAN TRUST!

Access for Kalamazoo and Portage

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

**Spiritual Channel 187**

- 30-Minute Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod worship service
- Produced by Lutherans for the homebound, hospitalized...
- Includes the Gospel, Epistle, and Sermon by LCMS pastors
- Music by choirs, soloists, and small groups

## Where else can I find these programs?

- ◆ Download the Hope-Full Living app on your phone
- ◆ Listen to Audio Only files at this [worshipanew.org](http://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 26in Kalamazoo and WTLJ54 in Battle Creek.

## We remember to pray for Homebound friends:

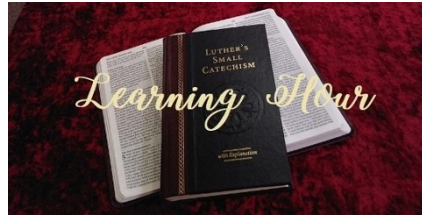
Jan Allan, Caroline Barkow,  
Sally Beck, Thomas Boelcke,  
Judy Chumas, Shirley  
Cosgrove, Ginny Evans,  
Audrey Glover, Virgil Harrison,  
Bernie & Pauline Kubacki,  
Nancy Miller, Jim & Ardean  
Monck, Joan Pfister, Wilma  
Ritchie, Vic Schroeder, Marilyn  
Sible, Ernie & Judi VanOrman,  
Sharon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

# DISCIPLESHIP

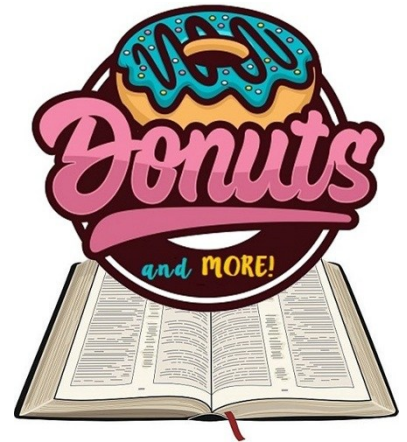
Christian education is vital to our Spiritual health and growth.

*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



## **“Exploring Our Faith”**

What makes Saint Michael Lutheran Church special? How do we get involved in what God is doing among us? *“Exploring Our Faith”* is taught on Sunday mornings during the same time as the children’s Sunday School and other Adult Bible Classes, 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. 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.

**We are inviting 3rd grade students with their parents for a**

## **BIBLE WORKSHOP & BLESSING**

**Students and Parents are invited to a special Learning Hour Workshop**

**beginning at 9:45 AM on September 7.**

**During the morning worship services, students are invited to come forward to receive a blessing and will be gifted a Bible of their own.**

Please RSVP to: [tsonger@mightymessengers.org](mailto:tsonger@mightymessengers.org) to let us know which service you will be attending, so we can have a Bible ready for you!





## Swing for Christian Education

### ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

# ★ GOLF ★

## OUTING

**AUGUST 18  
9AM**

Pine View Golf Club  
52065 Pulver Road  
Three Rivers, MI

All proceeds support  
the tuition-assistance  
fund

SHOTGUN START  
4 PERSON SCRAMBLE  
MEN & WOMEN

REGISTRATION :  
[www.mightymessengers.org/golf](http://www.mightymessengers.org/golf)

**Why is the Tuition Assistance Fund So Important...**

The availability of tuition assistance to qualifying families is often enough to allow them to attend our school

27% of our total school enrollment benefit from this program

Due to recent economic challenges and significant increases in school enrollment, the need for this program is greater than ever

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN EDUCATION AND THE  
COMMUNITY!

Contact Us to Sign Up!  
[www.mightymessengers.org/golf](http://www.mightymessengers.org/golf)

**SPONSORSHIPS**

- \$5,000 Angel Sponsor
- \$2,500 Eagle Sponsor
- \$1,000 Birdie Sponsor
- \$250 Cart Sponsor
- \$150 Hole Sponsor
- \$100 Golfer Sponsor
- \$500 Lunch Sponsor
- \$250 Breakfast Sponsor

## Special Voter's Meeting Minutes July 20, 2025

President Mark Ruesch called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. Pastor Naumann opened the meeting with a devotional thought and prayer. There were 46 members and a few guests present in the room.

President Ruesch said that the Resolution being presented was distributed by email on Friday with the announcements of other events and activities. No printed copies were available, so he read the Resolution from his email.

### Resolution To Form A Call Committee:

**Whereas** our senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann, has announced he is planning to retire at the thirtieth anniversary of his installation at St. Michael Lutheran Church (near the beginning of 2027);

**Whereas** our pastor emeritus, Rev. Kenneth Allan, who was assisting in ministering to our shut-in members, has now gone on to be with our Lord in heaven; and

**Whereas** our part-time assistant pastor, Rev. Jason Toman, resigned his call at the beginning of this year;

**Whereas** our Board of Lay Ministry formed a Senior Pastor Succession Plan Committee in 2023 that considered various options provided by the Michigan District for pastoral transition and recommended that the congregation call an associate pastor with the intention of him becoming the new senior pastor after a few months of overlap with Pastor Naumann, now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that St. Michael Lutheran Church direct the Board of Lay Ministry to form a call committee according to the procedures laid out in its Bylaws Article III;

**Resolved**, that this call committee prayerfully review the overall staffing needs of St. Michael Lutheran Church;

**Resolved** that this call committee prepare updated position descriptions for its called staff members in order to best meet the long-term needs of St. Michael Lutheran Church, and, finally, be it

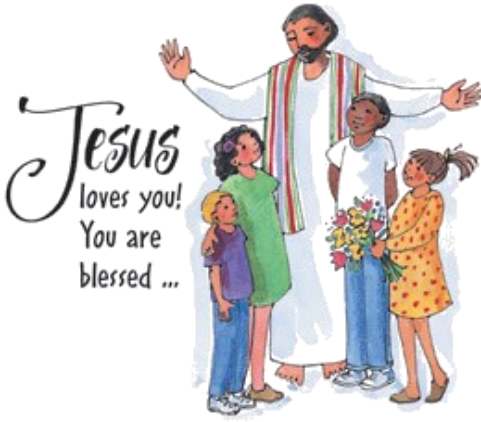
**Resolved** that the call committee work with the LCMS Michigan District president in preparing a list of candidates to fill the recommended positions, review the list of candidates, and make recommendations to the Voters' Assembly no later than its regular meeting in February of 2026.

A motion was made to approve the Resolution. Seconded and after a few questions of clarity were asked, the **motion was unanimously approved**.

Mark Ruesch noted that it is desired that there be a good cross-section of the congregation represented on the committee, so if anyone is interested in serving on this committee please reach out to Mark Kahle, Director or Greg Wedel, Assistant Director of the board of Lay Ministry. Pastor Naumann or Mark Ruesch will also get you connected.

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m. with prayer by President Mark Ruesch.

*Submitted by Tammy Songer, Congregation Secretary*

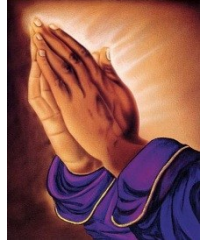


## SHEPHERD GROUPS

Lay Minister	Family Names Start with	Family Names & include
<b>Kerry Batten</b> 269-491-8128	A	Boelman
<b>Harold DeFouw</b> 269-569-6869	Bohren	Chenevare
<b>Rich Conklin</b> 616-889-0201	Chilcott	D
<b>Jeff Lauterbach</b> 269-578-6415	E	Franzen
<b>Dave Drzewiecki</b> 616-560-2175	Frommann	G
<b>Dave Johnson</b> 269-599-2195	H	H
<b>Bill Schinzer</b> 269-366-5594	I	J
<b>Ryan Bigelow</b> 269-838-6062	K	Lapekas
<b>Mark Kahle</b> 402-730-1914	Lausman	McNees
<b>Howard McNees</b> 269-720-3857	Messing	Nelson
<b>Jeff Burnett</b> 269-491-3700	Neumann	P
<b>Andy Allan</b> 269-370-7052	Q	Shook
<b>Greg Wedel</b> 312-961-4636	Shuler	Stolsky
<b>Matt Heintz</b> 269-290-8507	Sullivan	T
<b>Arlan Wendzel</b> 269-816-5632	U	Z

## PRAYING IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

*"Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord. And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord." Isaiah 37: 14-15*



This chapter of Isaiah contains an interesting story about King Hezekiah. The Assyrians were attacking Jerusalem with a large army and beginning to overpower it. The situation looked hopeless. King Sennacherib ridiculed Hezekiah mercilessly. Sennacherib made fun of Hezekiah's misfortune by writing him a letter filled with insults about God in order to make the devout king lose all hope. Instead of losing hope, Hezekiah went into the temple, spread out the letter in front of God, bowed down with his face touching the ground, and prayed a heartfelt prayer.

Learning to pray when there's an emergency or when something is frightening us requires a lot of discipline. Instead of praying, we tend to torture ourselves with anxiety and worry. All we can think about is trying to get rid of the problem. The devil often tricks us when temptation or suffering first begins, whether we are dealing with spiritual or physical matters. He immediately barges in and makes us so upset about the problem that we become consumed by it. In this way, he tears us away from praying. He makes us so confused that we don't even think about praying. When we finally begin to pray, we have already tortured ourselves half to death. The devil knows what prayer can accomplish. That's why he creates so many obstacles and makes it so inconvenient for us that we never get around to prayer.

On the basis of this story in Isaiah, we should get into the habit of falling on our knees and spreading out our needs in front of God the moment we have an emergency or become frightened. Prayer is the very best medicine there is. It always works and never fails – if we would just use it!

( Taken from "Faith Alone" a daily devotional by Martin Luther)

You may recall that it was Hezekiah who prayed for God to heal him of his illness later in Isaiah. That was when God stopped time to prove to Hezekiah that he was true to his word.

Prayer is such a powerful thing, if you firmly believe that God will grant you what is best for you.

Pray on,

*Virginia Hetrick* – Prayer Coordinator





Thank You So Much,  
to the Congregation,  
for Supporting our  
Youth and Giving  
them this Amazing  
Experience!

August Calendar of Events:

**Sunday, August 3**

9:45 am Coffee Club

5:00 pm No Evening Group

**Sunday, August 10**

9:45 am Bible Study

5:00 pm Youth Group

**Saturday, August 16**

3:00 pm Painting Youth Room

**Sunday, August 17**

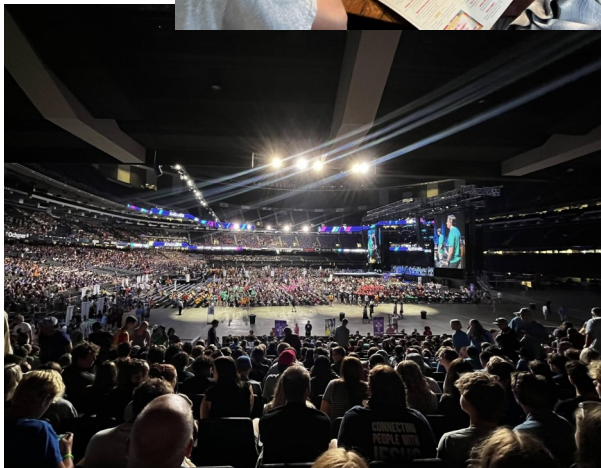
9:45 am Bible Study

**Sunday, August 24**

9:45 am Bible Study

2:00 pm Youth Lake Party

For more information or  
questions about  
involving your student,  
please contact  
Deaconess Caitlin  
Ramirez at  
[worden.cait@gmail.com](mailto:worden.cait@gmail.com)  
or 313.914.9187





# 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*



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

St. Michael has had a wonderfully supportive group that packages the Personal Care, Baby Layettes and School Kits throughout the year.

At this time, we are in need of a few things to prepare for the next packing party.

### **It is school supply time!**

If you are shopping and could pickup a few of these specific items, it would be most appreciated!

**70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper**

**Ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other**

**Pencil Sharpener**

**Blunt scissors**

**Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers**

**Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)**

**24-pk Crayons**

**2 ½” Pink Eraser**

Items can be placed in the wooden chest in the Communication Center. Thank you!

Brian and Jeff were watching their grandsons play a video game that included a joystick controller. Out of nowhere, Brian quipped, “I am going to take the joystick into the grave to control all my assets that I have earned throughout my life.”

Jeff was quiet for a minute and then replied, “Do you really think you can do that?”

There is no disguising that much of our life’s energy is used in the management of physical blessings over which God has placed us as stewards. That effort can easily translate into a sense of ownership and the need to control the things that are “ours”. Yet Psalm 24 reminds us, “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.” The real joy out of the things of life comes from knowing to whom they belong and sensing God’s hand stretching through them to bless us and enable us to share Jesus with the world.”

Attempts to control the things of life bring anxiety and fear. Living in God’s gracious blessings all wrapped up in Jesus brings us joy and celebration. Your Christian estate plan can reflect this joy and celebration. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help.

**LCMS Foundation**  
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

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



# 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/>

## JUNE FINANCIALS

8 Months

11/1/2024 - 6/30/2025

Church Revenue	\$ 576,144
School Revenue	\$ <u>844,944</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,421,087
Total Expenses	\$ <u>1,361,963</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 59,124
Expense Budget	\$1,404,186
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 16,901
Working Cash Balance	\$ 83,133
Mortgage Balance	\$ 624,993

## Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$737,645
Building Contingency	\$ 36,456
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 30,000
HVAC	\$ 853
Technology Refresh	\$ 4,380
Sunday School	\$ 1,984
Youth Donations	\$ 997
Youth Accounts	\$ 12,517
Good Samaritan	\$ 2,926
Memorials	\$ 16,482
Fellowship	\$ 1,726
Champion Church Network	\$ 381
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 10,119
Quilting	\$ 1,734
POBLO South Asia Ministry	\$ 15,596
Student Debt Fund	\$ -
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ -
Luth Medical Emergency Fund	\$ 250
School Improvements	\$ 21,480
Tuition Assistance	\$ 44,085
School Music	\$ 3,854
School Sports	\$ 810
Flower Fund	\$ 5,002
Building Utilization	\$(18,416)
LWML	\$ 3,042
Women's Fellowship	\$ 1,281
Faith Budget	\$ -

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Annual Avg. 2024 . . . . . 351

April '25 Avg. . . . . 533

May '25 Avg. . . . . 373

June '25 Avg. . . . . 352

July '25 Avg. . . . . **XXX**

# 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*



## WE ARE PASSIONATE TO SHARE JESUS WITH THE COMMUNITY OF LAC BROCHET!

With last year being the final year for leadership of Pastor & Dana, John & Ailene, we originally were not sure if we were going to have enough people for a team for LAMP this year. After reaching out to members and friends, Zach has recruited a group of five young individuals willing to continue our long-standing ministry with the remote Dene community in Northern Canada. Upon arriving, Father Ravi and one of the LAMP pilots will also assist us. We look forward to meeting them.

With the assembling of our team being much later than previous years, we have incurred additional travel expenses, that we wouldn't have otherwise occurred in previous years. Thus, the LAMP fund is expected to be much lower going into 2026. Please consider continuing to contribute to the new beginning of our LAMP ministry.



We will be delighted to share our experiences with you!

Jay, Joy, Julianne,  
Hanna, Zach





**Open Tuesday-Friday 10-6  
Saturday 10-2  
Closed Sunday and Monday**  
**7017 S Westnedge (In Front of Sam's Club)**  
<https://www.newwaythrift.org/>

**New Way is a social enterprise of Youth for Christ.**

**YFC reaches young people everywhere, working together with the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ and commitment to social involvement.**

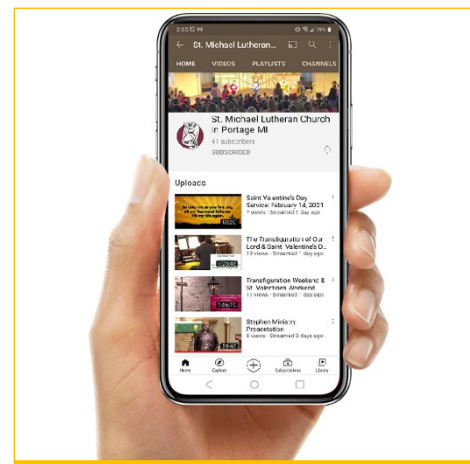


Colonial Acres City Life is a youth program for middle school and high schoolers that meets on Tuesdays at 3974 Andrus Ct. from 5-7:30. Here your teen will have game time, dinner, and a bible study. Homework Club Wednesday 3:30-4:30. Homework club is a quiet space for your teen to work on school work, have some accountability with their work, and have an opportunity to seek help from tutors (*Upon request*).



**Have Questions About  
Colonial Acres?  
Email Tyler Today!**

[tgjeltma@kalamazooyfc.org](mailto:tgjeltma@kalamazooyfc.org)  **EMAIL NOW**



## STAY CONNECTED

### YouTube

On the St. Michael page, You can find sermon videos, Bible classes, guest speakers, children's devotions and Vacation Bible School lessons. Find us at: St. Michael Lutheran Church in Portage MI

### Facebook

Find devotions, special event announcements and more:

@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI



### Office Contacts:

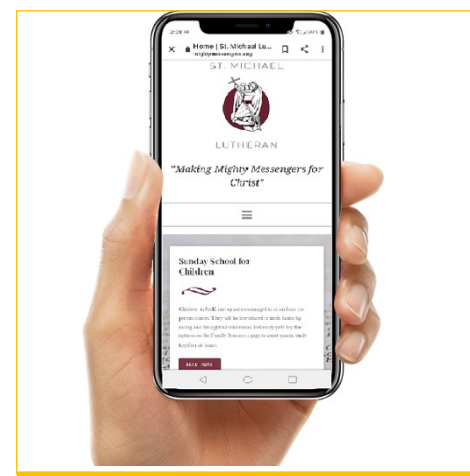
Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

### [mightymessengers.org](http://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*



The Women's Fellowship event for August is Monday the 11th at 6:30pm.

**Meet up for appetizers or dinner and fellowship at Monelli's Italian Grill**  
(7141 S. Westnedge Avenue, Portage).

Please RSVP to Kathy Zakarias at 815-519-2181 (call or text) or k5zakarias17@gmail.com, so we can save you a seat!

A special **Thank You**, to the Kalamazoo Growlers baseball team for donating **500** hotdogs to our Vacation Bible School event.



## **This is Gods kitchen, but He doesn't do dishes...**

We are fortunate to have both the gym and Allan Hall kitchens available for our various events. If you utilize the kitchens, please help us ensure the facilities are ready for the next person. This includes washing, drying, and returning items used. Wiping down stoves, counters, and sinks when done.

Please remove any leftover food rather than leave it on the counter or in the refrigerators, as it will likely spoil. Volunteers maintain these kitchens. If you could do your best to leave the kitchens in better shape than you found them, it would go a long way to improve the experience for everyone utilizing them. **Thank you!!**





# ***ST. MICHAEL SUNDAY*** **BOWLING** **TOURNAMENT**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**Airways Fun Center ☺ 1 -5 PM**

**Lane sign ups  
to start mid-August  
Start forming  
your Team**

*(6 people per lane is optimum  
with 8 maximum)*

Volunteers needed.  
...door prizes too!  
Contact Diane Gibson,  
if you can help with either.  
925-989-5059  
voxnaswede@aol.com

**Cost is  
\$12.00 per Bowler**  
**Includes:**  
3 games of bowling  
Shoe Rental  
\$10 Airway Fun Card for use  
on food, beverage or  
other arcade activities

***BOWLING -- FAMILY FUN -- PRIZES***

***GET READY TO ROLL!***

**Watch for more info as we get closer.**



# 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**

Megan Cummins

### **SIXTH GRADE TEACHER**

Emily Lauterbach

### **SEVENTH GRADE TEACHER**

Julie Prentice

### **EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER**

Lisa Lam

### **CHRIST FOR KIDS CHILDCARE DIRECTOR**

Emily Ritchie  
eritchie@mightymessengers.org

### **PRESCHOOL TEACHERS**

Cheryl Julian  
Alicia Keinath  
Becky Mohler

## **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