



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2025

Volume 64, Number 9

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

HOW WAS YOUR SUMMER?

I was in a meeting the other day and someone asked our school principal if he was sad that the summer was over. He shot back that summer isn't really over until September 21. He's right when it comes to the seasons, but I thought that was a pretty remarkable answer for a school administrator whose students and teachers have already returned to the classroom a week ago. I wouldn't be surprised if some of the teachers are having their students write the proverbial essay entitled "What I Did This Past Summer." While it's always more profitable to look forward than to look backward, reflecting on the past can be special, and even therapeutic, especially if you've grieving a loss of something. As the old saying goes, don't cry that it's over, but smile that it happened.

As most of you probably know, I've been grieving the loss of my mother as of August 13, but actually quite a bit prior to that too, as there's been a grieving process in seeing her health and cognition decline significantly over the entire summer. It all began when she was found on the floor on Memorial Day, and from there she went to the hospital for a week, a rehab facility for a few weeks, and ultimately into a new senior living facility that was willing to care for her (along with hospice help) right up until the end. So my summer was characterized by four trips to Florida and back, a place I had not been to in the summer months since our kids were in school. By the way, there were days when it was just as hot or hotter up here in Michigan as it was down there in Florida.

Much thanks to the many members of our church family who sent us sympathy cards, reached out us with hugs and condolences, and brought us to the Lord in prayer. We're overwhelmed and grateful for your wonderful out powering of love. But now that the summer is over, sort of, we're back at it with a great deal of Kingdom work to be done. Over the summer there has been a lot of remodeling, and moving out and back in, throughout the Christ for Kids (CFK) wing of the building, the place that had been the original sanctuary when St. Michael began over 60 years ago. The preschool has moved out of the school wing altogether now, and a new 6th grade classroom has been created (which also serves as our STEM lab). At the same time, the old

storage room and garage on the southeast corner of the property has been transformed into a fun new youth room with a marvelous urban retro look, including a loft and a reclaimed lumber entertainment wall. While there are still finishing touches to be done in the Youth Room, please join us for the CFK ribbon cutting ceremony September 2 at 6:00 pm.

In addition to all the many happenings that occurred this summer, including our rather successful single day VBS on August 2, and our "Mighty Angels" fundraiser golf outing on August 18, a lot of effort this summer has gone into future plans for building expansion to accommodate our growing school and childcare center, and a congregational retreat to discuss it on September 27. What's more, at the request of the congregation in a special VA meeting on July 20, we have now formed a very fine Call Committee, under the direction of Rich Conklin, which met for the first time on August 27 and will continue to meet in the weeks and months ahead in an effort to make staffing recommendations for the congregation to consider at the February 2026 Voters' Assembly. Please keep this very important work in your prayers that the "Lord of the Harvest" (Matthew 9:38) would guide us and supply the workers He wants us to have in the years ahead.

So how was your summer? I pray you're smiling that it happened, and excited about what's next for you and for our congregation in this new school year. In addition to worshipping with us each weekend, be sure to get into an Adult Bible class during the 9:45-10:45 Learning Hour as, along with the Sunday School for the children, we'll be providing several of them starting September 7. We're also looking forward to the forty day "Giving Challenge" stewardship emphasis that will begin October 12. Include that in your prayers too, if you would please, and let me know if you would like to help with it.

Yours in our Savior's service,



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!



Planning Moment. St. Michael Lutheran Church maintains a long-range (5 year) plan to guide our church activities and programs. Over the past five years, many of the projects on our 5-year plan have been completed. These projects have helped support our church and school ministries and position our church and school for further growth.

These long-range projects help align and focus church board and committee activities, sometimes with only minor changes to the budgets.

Physical expansions, however, almost always require additional money. And additional time.

It took over 18 months to complete our recent remodeling effort in order to be ready for this year's record school enrollment. The remodeling had a significant impact on many of the areas in our facilities, with little time for planning.

Rather than waiting until our needs are so urgent, we want to start now, identifying those things that will be needed to support our ministry in the future, knowing the priorities, urgency, and costs. We will begin this process next month.

On **Saturday, September 27**, we will be hosting a Congregational Retreat. We will be asking members of St. Michael for their aspirations, insight, and perspectives for our future. We will then consolidate your insights into our next long-range plan for our Church, Childcare Center, and School programs.

Your participation will be an integral part of this effort.

Please mark your calendar now!

Saturday, September 27 from 9:00 – noon.

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

Psalm 25:3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame...

Jesus came to be put to shame, and this happened to Him all throughout His life. He would oftentimes find Himself surrounded by people who would typically be looked on as shameful, embarrassing, rejected... and He stayed near these people on purpose. He knew that associating with "those people" would not bring Him glory; on the contrary, Jesus was often ridiculed for the company that He kept.

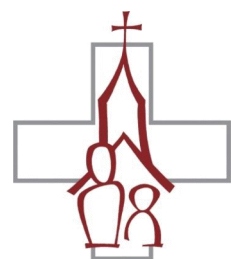


Not only would Jesus stay near these people, however, He would do so **instead** of being with those who would have made Him look better. When the Pharisees asked and even mocked Jesus for His behavior, Jesus answered by healing these rejects, forgiving their sins, and telling the Pharisees to humble themselves. Jesus loves those who are rejected, and this ultimately leads to Jesus Himself being rejected and killed.

Jesus takes on our shame, and gives us His glory instead. **And this is what we celebrate every week in worship as we gather in His name.** Our sins are forgiven, and we are given grace upon grace. Jesus takes away our shame and gives us His glory by sealing us in His name and giving us His body and His blood to eat and to drink.

This is what true glory looks like – living as God's beloved, forgiving, and merciful people. Contrary to how our sinful human nature would perceive glory, we know that true glory comes from trusting in the Lord and in His mighty power. We worship our loving God who takes away our shame and will one day raise us in glory to live with Him forever. Let us glorify God both during weekend worship and during the rest of the week by living in His newly given glory, even as we forgive, serve, and love one another.

Pastor Maske



Being Totally Committed

September 7, 2025 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Scott Zeckzer

Being a disciple of Jesus is more than just contributing; it is being totally committed to Jesus. How far are you willing to be committed to Jesus? How far is Jesus committed to you?

Sermon Text: Luke 14:26

Readings: Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 14:25-35

Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran School, Munster, Ind.; Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Rivercliff Lutheran Church, Sandy Springs, Ga.

Zealous for Your Salvation

September 14, 2025 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

That you have been brought to faith in Jesus and have forgiveness and everlasting life is not by coincidence. No, this is because God is zealous for your salvation. God wanting you to be saved is seen in the history of Israel, in the earthly life of Christ, and in your own life. All this shows that you are precious to the Lord.

Sermon Text: Ezekiel 34:11-16

Readings: Psalm 119:169-176; Ezekiel 34:11-16; Luke 15:1-10

Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran School, Concordia, Mo.; Concordia Lutheran High School, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gainesville, Ga.

The Buck Stops Here

September 21, 2025 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

Material riches are a wonderful thing ... rightly understood and ordered. Jesus teaches us to love the right things in the right order. Understanding this, we can faithfully say, "The Buck Stops Here!"

Sermon Text: Luke 16:10-13

Readings: Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran School, Munster, Ind.; Holy Cross Junior Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: All Saints Lutheran Church, Blairsville, Ga.

Heaven and Hell

September 28, 2025 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Shayne Jonker

So, who would you rather be? The rich man or Lazarus? We are all Lazarus: Helpless and hopeless in our poverty, sick unto death, and longing to even eat the crumbs that fall from God's table. Lazarus is each of us, and unless we see ourselves in him, we cannot be saved. In fact, we won't want to be saved.

Sermon Text: Luke 16:31

Readings: Psalm 146; Amos 6:1-7; Luke 16:19-31

Featured Choirs: St. Paul Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Dahlgonega, Ga.



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:

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

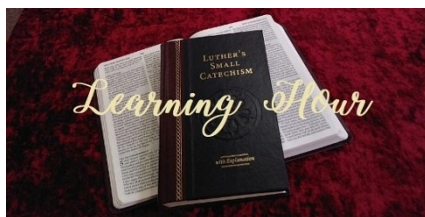
DISCIPLESHIP

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

What is coming in the Fall?



9:45-10:45 AM +
Sunday Mornings

Sunday, September 7 - Join the Parish Education Board in celebration of 3rd Graders receiving their own Faith Alive Bible and attending a student/parent workshop.

Grab some refreshments in the Gym before attending classes.

NEW CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 7!!

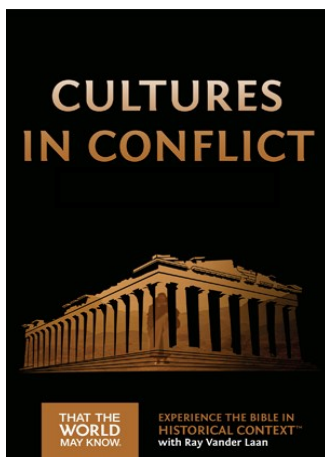
“Exploring Our Faith”

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.

How do we live in a culture where the worldview conflicts with Christianity?



In this sixteenth volume of **That The World May Know®**, we will learn from Paul as he presents his beliefs to the most powerful court in Athens and settles among the Greco-Romans of Corinth, who valued wealth and class, worship of multiple gods, and decadent pleasure seeking above all else. As we walk in the footsteps of the second missionary tour of the Apostle Paul in Greece, we will discover how to live in our own Athens or Corinth—an increasingly secular Western world—in a way that glorifies God. 5-weeks of Lessons with Jesse Hogue.



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



Adult Basketball (16+)

Drop In - Coed

Thursday 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!

We are inviting 3rd grade students
with their parents for

BLESSINGS, PRAYERS &
BIBLES FOR KIDS

During the morning services of
September 7 our church will gift
3rd grade students with their very
own Faith Alive Bible.

Students and Parents are also
invited to a special workshop
beginning at 9:45 AM in Allan Hall.

Please RSVP to the Church Office (269-327-7832)
to let us know which service you will be
attending, and we will have a Bible ready
for your student!



Confirmation Preparation Orientation will be
Sunday, September 7 in the Sanctuary.

We look forward to seeing our 6-7-8th grade
friends and their parents!

Middle School Students can now begin
selecting dates on the Acolyte Schedule for
this school year. You can find that
information on our website at

<https://www.mightymessengers.org/confirmation>



Mondays after school

Kids Knitting with Mary Wright is available
Mondays after school. 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



Beginning September 10

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

School News | September 2025

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL

WELCOME BACK!

We hope you had a wonderful summer!
We are so excited about the 2025-2026
school year and all the wonderful things
this year will bring.

*This monthly newsletter offers a
schedule of school news and events in
one helpful place!*

SCHEDULE

K-8 First Day 8/25 - 11:30am dismissal

Labor Day * No School - 8/29 & 9/1

PS First Day 9/2

Preschool Ribbon Cutting 9/2 @ 6pm
come check out the new renovations!

Picture Day 9/22 & 9/25

No School 9/26 K-8

PTL

Parking Lot Party
9/12 @ 5:00pm - 8:00pm

*bounce house, food trucks, face painting,
food & fellowship*

Meetings are held 1st Tuesday of each month
via zoom and in person

READING SUGGESTIONS



SMLS Handbook



Athletics Handbook



Band Handbook

SPORTS

Volleyball & Cross Country have started!

Volleyball Schedule

Practices held M/W 3:30-5pm & F 3:30-4pm

8/26 First Practice & Parent Meeting

9/8 @ 5pm - @Lighthouse Community Church

9/16 @ 4pm - @Gagie

9/18 @ 4pm - HOME vs Tree of Life

9/23 @ 4pm - HOME vs Howardsville Christian

9/30 @ 4:30pm - @Trinity Lutheran Paw Paw

Cross Country Schedule

Practices held M/W 3:30-5pm & F 3:30-4:30pm

8/27 First Practice & Parent Meeting

9/6 Christian Schools Invitational @ 9AM

9/17 Parchment Classic @ 4:30PM

9/20 Irish Fox & Hound @ 9:45AM

9/27 Otsego Bulldog Invitational @ 2:05PM





This summer the youth have been studying the book of Psalms. We've learned about this wonderful book of the bible which is full of prayers and helps us express our emotions to God when we are struggling with them.

In addition to digging into the scriptures we've had some fun this summer. The junior youth went to Frankenmuth for the Michigan District Youth Gathering and together we all enjoyed some fun at the Lake.

It's September and our senior youth are all back to school! Please keep the youth in your prayers as they return to classes, interactions with friends and classmates and situations that often test their faith. Please pray that the Lord encourage and comfort them in the difficult moments. Pray that the Lord walk with them each day and guide them in their interactions with others, so that His light might shine in the world.

September Calendar of Events:

Sunday, September 7 - Christian Ed Sunday

9:45 am Coffee Club
5:00 pm Youth Group

Sunday, September 14 - World Mission Sunday

9:45 am Bible Study - Parables of Jesus
5:00 pm Campfire

Sunday, September 21

9:45 am Bible Study - Parables of Jesus
4:00 pm Youth Leaders Meeting
5:00 pm Youth Games at church

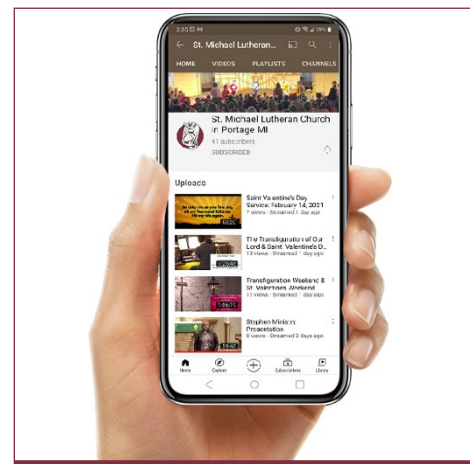
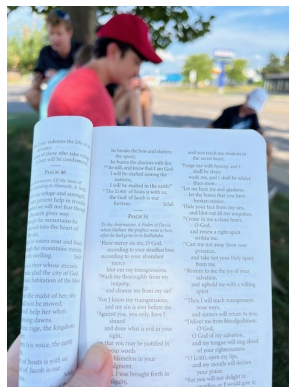
Saturday, September 27

9:00-noon Youth are invited to participate in Congregation Retreat

Sunday, September 28

9:45 am Bible Study - Parables of Jesus
1:00-5:00 pm **Congregation Bowling Tournament**

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



STAY CONNECTED

YouTube

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

Facebook

Find devotions, special event announcements and more:

@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI



Office Contacts:

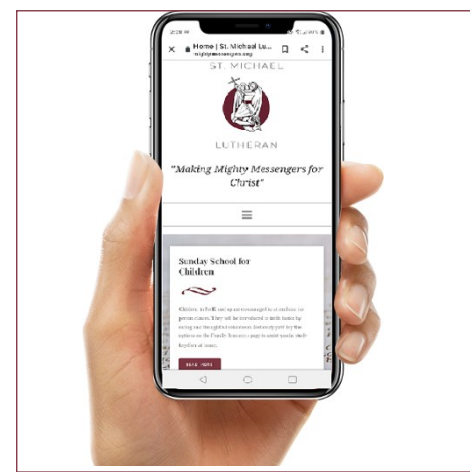
Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

mightymessengers.org

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



SERVICE

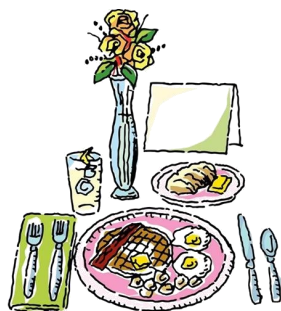
Good stewardship of time, talents and treasure for the work of ministry.



*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



Altar Guild Brunch

You're Invited to the Annual Gathering Saturday, October 19 at 10AM - Allan Hall

This is a great opportunity for all to learn more about the role of Altar Guild. Come, if you might consider serving even on a part-time basis. We will sign up for serving in 2024, so bring your personal calendar with you.

RSVP please to Kristi Rudowske

Home: 269-324-5792

Text: 269-532-5043

Email: kspitz2001@yahoo.com

Caring Connections Caring Connections is trying to reach more church families in need and also reach out to more church members for help. Several of us cook meals for a short period of time for those going through cancer treatment or convalescing at home. Not able to cook? Would you be willing to supply us with a gift card or cash so we could purchase food from a restaurant? If this sounds like a ministry that you would like to support, put your purchased gift cards or check made out to SMLC (please note *Caring Connections* on the memo line) in box 323 (Kathy Taylor). We will gratefully use these donations to help support our members in need.

Funeral Co-coordinator For over a year, we have asked for that special person to come forward who is willing to coordinate funeral reception needs for the congregation. To date, our prayers have gone unanswered. Please take a moment to search your heart to see if you are that person. Thankfully the need is seldom, but it is critical to the families it impacts. The satisfaction in helping is great. This position comes with training, an amazing group of volunteers and the knowledge that you have made a difference at a time of need.. Have questions? Please contact Diane Gibson at 925-989-5059.

Renee expressed her frustration with her attorney, saying, “There are just so many options to choose. This is heavy work for me.” Her lawyer asked, “What do you mean? Give me an example.” Renee responded, “OK. I realize that gifts from my estate can happen all at once or be spread over time. I am not sure how to decide which option is best. And once I make that decision, how do I figure out the best way to accomplish those goals?”

Your attorney is very skilled in helping you with this challenge. You should seek the counsel of the attorney you hire to help with your estate. Yet, your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor is a valuable asset for guidance in this area as well. Your Gift Planning Counselor can bring these opportunities up early in deliberations, so that you have plenty of time to think about, pray about and talk about the options, purposely choosing the options that resonate with your heart and mind, guided by God’s Holy Spirit.

There is no cookie cutter design for an estate gift plan. The right plan is the one that satisfies your Christian goals. This may take a bit of time and energy on your part to move through this process, but it will bring you the satisfaction that you have chosen well.

LCMSFoundation
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Julie Burgess
Julie.burgess@lfnfnd.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/>

JULY FINANCIALS

9 Months

11/1/2024 - 7/31/2025

Church Revenue	\$ 628,029
School Revenue	\$ <u>909,022</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,537,051
Total Expenses	\$ <u>1,531,244</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 5,807
Expense Budget	\$1,568,410
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 31,359
Working Cash Balance	\$ 29,815
Mortgage Balance	\$ 641,713

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$792,638
Building Contingency	\$ 36,948
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 30,000
HVAC	\$ 853
Technology Refresh	\$ 3,996
Sunday School	\$ 1,121
Youth Donations	\$ 622
Youth Accounts	\$ 12,517
Good Samaritan	\$ 5,923
Memorials	\$ 16,482
Fellowship	\$ 1,826
Champion Church Network	\$ 381
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 8,447
Quilting	\$ 1,715
POBLO South Asia Ministry	\$ 14,596
Student Debt Fund	\$ -
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ -
Luth Medical Emergency Fund	\$ 250
School Improvements	\$ 29,709
Tuition Assistance	\$ 36,737
School Music	\$ 3,854
School Sports	\$ 977
Flower Fund	\$ 1,432
Building Utilization	\$(18,416)
LWML	\$ 2,724
Women's Fellowship	\$ 1,364
Faith Budget	\$ -

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Annual Avg. 2024 351

May '25 Avg.	373
June '25 Avg.	352
July '25 Avg.	318
August '25 Avg.	330

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



This morning myself, Zach, Hanna, Julianne and Joy met at the airport at 4:15 am to board our first flight from Kalamazoo to Detroit, we then connected from Detroit to Toronto, and then from Toronto to Winnipeg at 3pm Eastern. I can confidently say that today went better than expected. Nobody missed their alarm, all flights were on time, customs let us through, no bags were lost. We got to the hotel right at check in, took a much needed nap, and did our daily devotion at a local shawarma place in Winnipeg. This was our first opportunity to bond, pray and eat as a team. Today's devotion centered around the quote "It's go time". Certainly "it's go time" for our travels, and it's also "go time" for us to bond as a team and support each other. Tomorrow we will make the 8 hour drive to Thompson. Please continue to pray for us. God is working.

Day 4 – August 10, 2025

Today was our first full day in Lac Brochet. We started the day by going to Mass in the morning and inviting those who were at Mass to assist and attend our upcoming events this week. We then took a tour of the town whilst also hanging up our remaining advertisements and getting perishable groceries for the week. Our devotion today centered around enlightening our hearts. Lunch was graciously prepared by Father



Ravi, whom has been a wonderful host to us so far at our stay in the church rectory. We were able to rid the last of our jet lag and put a strong planning session together for the teen night, taking multiple trips to the school for supplies. During teen night, about 20 kids showed up and they were wonderful. We had coloring, jewelry making, and sports for them. There were plenty of situations to talk with the teens one on one about their personal problems and also times to educate them as a group. One of our group activities that was similar to reverse-charades had the message that you can trust God no matter where you are in life. We also played glow in the dark capture the flag with a message about guarding our faith in Christ. Teen night was a good opportunity for us to practice and iron out any kinks before the storm of children show up tomorrow for VBS.

I've heard that a lot of you are curious about the smoke situation. There is a fire to our southwest and one recently started to our east. Sometimes the air quality is perfect and other days you smell like you were at a campfire. It all depends on the direction that the wind is blowing. We have masks if we need them which do filter out some of the particles and thankfully none of us have any pre-existing conditions that are concerning. So far it has only limited us to decreasing the intensity of our activities outside and we do not expect it to limit us anymore than that.

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



Day 5 – August 11, 2025

Today we finally had our first day of Vacation Bible School for the children! First we scrambled to get everything prepared and ready in the morning, then we visited the band office in the morning and met their business manager as the chief was out of town. It was quite exciting to see someone doing the same job as myself. Come to find out she also had the same deep theological questions that many of us have... like "Who is Cain's wife?" and "Why is there original sin?" So we ended up getting to the school with only a limited amount of time for setup. Luckily we had no major issues with the technology and were able to show the 37 kids that showed up music videos that line up with our theme of Trusting Jesus which is similar to the theme from my 2022 visit. We performed a skit and showed a video about our day's message which was about Jesus' parable of how the wise man built his house upon the rock. We had three stations of crafts, science and games for group rotation. The children were well behaved today, and we're glad that it wasn't too chaotic for our first day. We are expecting and hope more children show up during the week. The smoke was not a factor today but the wind has shifted from coming out of the north and the average temperature is not expected to get above the mid 50s until after we leave. There weren't many kids outside wanting to play tonight because the weather was poor, so Zach and I were able to spend some time socializing with the teens instead at the pool tournament in their newly built teen center.

Day 6 – August 12, 2025

This morning we woke up an hour earlier to spend extra time to plan. We ran a much smoother program today. About the same amount of kids showed up which is just enough children to have without losing control of the group. Our focus today was on bearing other's burdens and giving the weight of sin to Jesus. We brought heavy backpacks to the gym to simulate the burden. Our teen helpers did a good job today. After school, our ladies held a Women's Bible study while Zach and I played hide and go seek and freeze tag with the kids. The new youth/teen center is right next to the church so we are easily able to hang out there and talk to the older kids after school. We also took a ride to the dump and saw about 10 bears. Michael, a member of LAMP joined us today after school and we talked about what other communities are like.

Day 7 – August 13, 2025

Today we had done our devotion, made our plans in the morning and headed off to the gym to get set up. It turns out the school was locked and we didn't have a key to get in. We called the security guy and he wasn't getting back until the time that our program started. So the minute that we entered the school to set up children were pouring in. Luckily we were

able to overcome the hurdle and engage the kids in music as we were setting up. Time was of the essence, and our volunteers were very helpful again. Just like we teach the kids, we are really trusting in Jesus to get us through the final stretch. After the school, Zach and I ran a men's Bible study while the girls played with the kids outside. Two men showed up and we centered our study around the resurrection of Christ. The men had many theories, cultural stories, and questions that they wanted to talk about. We were happy to share what we know for a couple of hours. After Bible study Zach and I went to the playground to entertain the children.

Day 8 – August 14, 2025

As we are packed and prepare to say our final goodbyes tomorrow, I am excited to sleep in my own bed yet sad that I have to leave the bonds that are just beginning with those around the community. We started our day with morning planning and a devotion. Our energy levels were lower than usual but we were inspired by the fact that it was our last day. Heavy cold December like rains made it difficult to get going but we gave it our all to give the children one last day of Bible school. The weather kept many of the children away. But of the children that were there, we were able to give more personal attention and assistance to, which helped them understand our lessons without much distraction. The usual volunteers came full of energy and stayed to help clean up after. At the conclusion of the school, we had no time to rest. We took inventory, finding things that we could've used for the week, and threw out a trunk sized amount of boxes from previous years. Then it was time for the potluck which we had snacks for but not time to prepare a dish. There was some steak, caribou and baklava and we ran out after everyone had a plate. We then played games in the church with all of the teen volunteers, some children, others in the community, our LAMP supporter Michael and Father Ravi until we got tired. As we plan to say our final goodbyes tomorrow, I am planning for this to be my last message unless something happens that I feel compelled to write during the last two days. Most of the day tomorrow will be cleaning and travel to Winnipeg, and the day thereafter flights back home. See you all in Kalamazoo.

Join us on Sunday, September 14 for a full report!!



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



Sunday September 28th

Airways Fun Center 1-5 PM

Bowling Teams are Forming!

Lane assignments are available.

See the signup sheet in the Communication Center

Price is \$12 per bowler.

Includes.... Three games of bowling, Shoes, \$10 food/fun Airways card to use as you choose.

Make checks payable to SMLC.

Payment is due by September 20th to secure your lane position.



Not bowling but still want to come? Signup in the Communication Center so, we know you are coming.

Gutter Bumpers, light weight balls and guide ramps are available for younger bowlers at no additional cost.

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Meet and Mingle

Join us on Friday September 19th for our first 3rd Friday of the month Meet and Mingle following the SMLS Chapel at 9 AM. Start your Friday morning with a lively youth service attended by all students and staff. You will enjoy songs, worship and many times special presentations by the students. You might even learn those fancy hand movements they do with the songs. Once the students return to class, stay and enjoy some "adult" conversation in the Communication Center with parents and others who have attended. Coffee and goodies will be provided. Hope your able to join us.

Thank you!!–Thank you!!–Thank you!!

A special thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the funeral reception of Pastor Allan. From food donations to food prep to serving, setup and cleanup, we couldn't have done it without you. With your help, the congregation was able to provide a lovely heartfelt reception in honor of Pastor Allan. Your efforts gave us the opportunity to thank him and his family for all the love and guidance provided to our church family over many years of service. Pastor Allan faithfully guided his flock with love, faith and commitment. It was an honor and privilege for SMLC to provide him with the same.

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

The president of Ladies' ACTION/LWML of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Centreville, MI says they are hosting a

Servant Day of Lutheran Women in Mission, Michigan District, Saturday, September 20th

As part of Gateway Zone of LWML Michigan, we consider Battle Creek and St. Joseph Zones as sister zones, and so we are inviting you to attend 9:30 am-Noon at our church, 585 W. Burr Oak St. (M-86), Centreville.

This year's event will feature filling of backpacks for Orphan Grain Train - Michigan with the supplies that OGT prescribes for its School Kits which are shipped as Relief for Human Need worldwide. Our group already has purchased the backpacks through support from Thrivent Financial of an Action Team. Guests should bring any one of the recommended items to help fill the backpacks.

Items include: 2 spiral notebooks; 2 pencils; 2 pens; 10 sheets of construction paper; 1 package crayons (24 count); 1 ruler; 2 glue sticks; 1 scissors; 1 eraser; 1 package colored pencils (12 count); 1 pencil sharpener

The morning will include a free breakfast, a devotional, and craft. Then, you and your friends will have the rest of the day, if you wish, to visit our church's Garden of Hope Memorial to the Unborn, the St. Joseph County Grange Fair, or the famed Yoder's Country Market in Centreville.

LWML BATTLE CREEK ZONE

FALL RALLY

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN
7211 OAKLAND DR, PORTAGE

10-12 PM | OCTOBER 4, 2025

INGATHERING:
TRINITY LUTHERAN
DAYCARE SNACKS
(GOLDFISH CRACKERS ONLY)

Enjoy a 3-part Bible study that explores: The effects of fear, the effects of self-worth and the effects of discipleship in *"Living in Love"*.

LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW

A brief business meeting helps everyone be informed of mission and ministry opportunities.

**ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH
ARE CONSIDERED LUTHERAN
WOMEN IN MISSION!!**

COME JOIN US!!

LIVING IN LOVE

**"JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, YOU ALSO ARE
TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER" - JOHN 13:34**

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.



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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

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WORSHIP MEDIA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

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CHOIR DIRECTOR

Carolyn Bertrand

ORGANIST

Keith Eiser

MORNING SONG DIRECTOR

Jane Connon

VOLUNTEERS:

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Mark Ruesch

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TREASURER

Vacant

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Vacant, Director
Vacant, Assistant Director

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VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Vacant, Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vacant, Chairman

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Vacant, Director
Jerry Kuss, Jeff Burnett

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez

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Mark Kahle, Director
Greg Wedel, Assistant Director

ALTAR GUILD

Kristi Rudowske

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

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