



# THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2025

Volume 64, Number 10



## THE GIVING CHALLENGE

They say that money can't buy happiness, and that's certainly true. While we might think that we would be happier if we had more money, the reality is with more money comes more problems. To be sure, the stresses and worries that come with wealth are different than those that come from not having enough money, but riches bring their own kind of worries and anxieties nonetheless. So the key to happiness is not how much money we have, but what we do with whatever amount of money that we do have. If we hoard our money, or spend it only on our selfish pleasures (*like the prosperous farmer in Jesus' parable who foolishly thought only to build bigger barns for his bumper crop*), it leaves us feeling hollow and purposeless for in the end it has no real meaning and no lasting value. But if we use our money to help others, if we invest it in eternal causes that will continue beyond our lifetime, and if we contribute generously toward the life-changing work that God is doing in the world through His church, then the financial resources that God has entrusted to us can bring us deep-down joy.

Starting October 12, our congregation is going to begin a 40-day journey toward greater generosity called "*The Giving Challenge*." During the 40 days, we will all be reading the Giving Challenge book by LCMS pastor Rev. Zach Zehnder. It is designed to get us into the Bible, especially as Jesus says such things as: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." This will provide us with an impactful daily devotion that will help us understand how to live the generous life. Our Lord Jesus was amazingly generous, freely giving of Himself to the needs of others. As followers of Jesus, as His chosen disciples, by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we too desire to be generous in giving a portion of what God has given us toward the things that matter to Him.

In addition to the daily devotional reading, we will be meeting together with others in small group Bible study using an engaging video based curriculum. We have a number of small groups that will be available to you, including one for men on Tuesday morning, one for women on Thursday

morning, one for anybody after our Lamplight service on Saturday evening, and more. Please let me know if you would be willing to lead or host a small group for these six weeks! We will also offer the Giving Challenge small group Bible study on Sunday morning between services too, and while the group won't be small, and the time frame will be shorter than a small group meeting normally is, it will nevertheless be a handy way for many of us to work through the material together. Finally, our three weekend worship services throughout the 40 days will all focus on the same material that we're reading and discussing in our small group. The combination of these three things going on simultaneously has proven in the past to be very powerful and impactful both on our personal Spiritual life, as well as on the life and health of our congregation.

We pray that once again, in this our 65<sup>th</sup> year as a church, we would all find this 40 day Giving Challenge (from Octobers 12 until our Commitment Sunday on November 23) to be revitalizing and a great blessing for sustaining and improving our effectiveness at St. Michael Lutheran Church and School, as we continue to pursue together our God-given mission of "Making Mighty Messengers for Christ."



**TOWNHALL MEETING  
COMING SOON!**  
**Sunday, October 12**  
Between Worship  
Services in Gym

**VOTERS' ASSEMBLY**  
**October 26**  
following Late Service  
In the Sanctuary

# WE ARE CALLED

to make disciples of *Jesus*

## Being a Small Group Leader for the Giving Challenge

- 1) Guide a small group of no more than a dozen people for at least seven sessions of meetings.
- 2) Host the meeting at your house (or someone else's house) or at church (or a place of business).

### What do you do at the meetings?



**Welcome people** and get to know each other through normal conversation. This could include offering something to drink.



**Play a video and facilitate discussion** using the brief Bible based Giving Challenge Small Group Guide (videos are free online or on DVD). The first session will lay out some ground rules for the group.



**Pray for each other** using the simple prayer guidelines provided at the end of each session. Decide as a group how you want to do the praying (i.e., silently, each one takes a turn, one prays for all, one starts and another ends, etc.)



**Conclude with a little food and drink** in whatever form agreed upon by the group (e.g., take turns supplying a little desert). Conclude the meeting in no more than two hours (i.e., quit while its still fun!).

### Giving Challenge Schedule - 2026

Reading Dates	Weekend Worship	Message Topic	Small Group Topic (and Days for Reading)
10/12 -18	October 11 - 12 Pentecost 18	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>The H.E.A.R.T. of the Matter</b> Day 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
10/19 - 25	October 18 - 19 Pentecost 19	<b>Giving Happily</b>	<b>Giving Happily</b> Day 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
10/26 - 11/1	October 25 - 26 <b>Reformation Sunday</b>	<b>Giving Eternally</b>	<b>Giving Eternally</b> Day 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
11/2 - 11/8	November 1 - 2 <b>All Saints Sunday</b>	<b>Giving Abundantly</b>	<b>Giving Abundantly</b> Day 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26
11/9 - 11/15	November 8 - 9 Pentecost 22	<b>Giving Regularly</b>	<b>Giving Regularly</b> Day 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33
11/16 - 11/22	November 10 - 11 Pentecost 23	<b>Giving Today</b>	<b>Giving Today</b> Day 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40
11/23	November 22 - 23 <b>Commitment Sunday</b> Last Sunday of the Church Year	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>The Final Challenge</b> (pages 268 - 270)

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!*

# 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*

## THE JOY AND PRIVILEGE OF SINGING TO GOD

One of God's most beautiful gifts to us is the ability to sing. From the very beginning, people have responded to His goodness with music. The psalmist says it best: "Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things" (Psalm 98:1). When God gathers us around His Word and Sacraments, He also gathers our voices, lifting them together in songs of praise. Singing in worship isn't just an optional extra—it's a joy and a privilege.

**It's a privilege because God Himself gives us the gift.** He fills our hearts and mouths with His promises and then invites us to share them in "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." When we sing, we're not just reciting poetry or enjoying music—we're proclaiming the truth of Christ, who died and rose for us.

And here's the beautiful thing: **God delights in every voice.** Yours doesn't have to be perfect. Whether strong and trained or soft and shaky, your song is treasured by Him. Think of it like a parent enjoying a child's homemade drawing—it may not be perfect, but it's loved. That's exactly how our heavenly Father hears our voices.

**Singing is also pure joy.** There's something incredible about joining in song with fellow believers. We breathe together, we speak together, we confess together. Music reaches deeper than words alone—it speaks to our hearts. **A hymn sung on Sunday can echo through the week, comforting us in hard times and reminding us of God's promises when life feels heavy.**

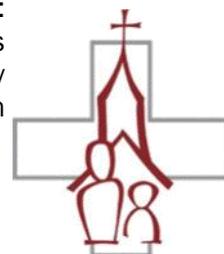
Even more, singing gives us a taste of heaven. Scripture tells us that the angels and saints never stop singing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty" (Revelation 4:8). When we lift our voices in the Sanctus or Gloria, we join that eternal song. **Worship here on earth is connected to the worship of heaven—it's never isolated.**

And our singing blesses others too. Paul reminds us that we sing not just to God but to each other (Ephesians 5:19). Your voice may lift someone weighed down by grief or strengthen a believer who feels weak. A child hearing the congregation sing with confidence learns that these hymns are treasures to carry throughout life. Singing points both upward to God and outward to those around us. It's an act of love in both directions.

**Finally, singing reminds us we are never alone.** We join our voices with the whole Church—the saints who have gone before us, now resting in Christ. In worship, especially around the Lord's Supper, we proclaim with angels and archangels the glory of God. The voices of those who have passed into heaven join ours in one eternal song. Death cannot silence them, nor us, because in Christ, the song of salvation goes on forever.

So let's sing with gladness—loudly, quietly, perfectly, or a little off-key. **The Lord treasures every note.** And as we lift our voices, we join with the whole Church, here on earth and in heaven, confessing together: Jesus Christ is Lord. Until the day when faith becomes sight and we join the eternal song around the throne, may we rejoice in this gift—singing now, in worship and in everyday life, for the glory of our Savior.

*Pastor Maske*



**Fan Into Flame**

**October 5, 2025 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rev. William Mueller**

The Apostle Paul, while imprisoned and most likely very near his upcoming execution, writes one more letter to Pastor Timothy. Through this text God is reminding us – who are the people He has used in our life to bring and grow us in faith in Jesus Christ? And He is challenging us – who are the people God is using us to encourage and grow someone in faith in Jesus Christ?

**Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 1:1-14**

**Readings: Psalm 62; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:1-10**

*Featured Choirs: St. John Lutheran School, Plymouth, Wis.; Holy Cross Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind.*

*Featured Art and Architecture: St. John's Lutheran Church, Lexington, Ky.*

**Thankful for Being Thankful**

**October 12, 2025 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rev. Paul Shoemaker**

The miracle of healing the 10 lepers reminds us of the earthly healing and support we receive from God. The one thankful leper reminds us of the miracle of true faith in Jesus, a faith that heals us eternally.

**Sermon Text: Luke 17:11-19**

**Readings: Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:1-13; Luke 17:11-19**

*Featured Choir: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.*

*Featured Art and Architecture: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hamler, Ohio*

**What Will Jesus Find?**

**October 19, 2025 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rev. Scott Zeckzer**

Prayer is one of the gifts that God has given to us. Sometimes it is easy to pray and other times it seems difficult. The Good News is we always have help when we pray and a loving Father who always listens.

**Sermon Text: Luke 18:1**

**Readings: Psalm 121; Genesis 32:22-30; Luke 18:1-8**

*Featured Choirs: Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.; St. Peter's Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind.;*

*Featured Art and Architecture: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.*

**In Christ's Word**

**October 26, 2025 – Reformation Day “observed”**

**Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege (Guest Pastor)**

Christ's Word is what Christians must continually hear. That Word spoken again and again by Jesus includes the harshest Law and then the sweetest Gospel. Martin Luther realized this truth.

**Sermon Text: John 8:31-32**

**Readings: Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36**

*Featured Choir: Choir of the Council of Presidents of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

*Featured Art and Architecture: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, 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?**

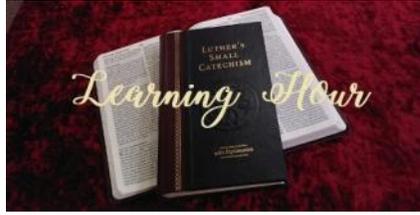
- ◆ Download the Hope-Full Living app on your phone
- ◆ Listen to Audio Only files at this [worshipanew.org](http://worshipanew.org) link [Audio files](#)
- ◆ Total Christian Television (TCT) network nationwide broadcast. Locally, you should find it at 11:30 am ET on WJPG-LD 26in Kalamazoo and WTLJ54 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.



9:45-10:45 AM +  
Sunday Mornings

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

	GYM	GYM	MUSIC ROOM	ALLAN HALL
10/5/2025			RVL - Jesse Hogue	Exploring Our Faith
10/12/2025	Townhall Mtg.			Exploring Our Faith
10/19/2025		Giving: Introduction	RVL - Jesse Hogue	Exploring Our Faith
10/26/2025		Giving: Happily	CS Lewis: Screwtape Letters Hogue/Hetrick	Exploring Our Faith
11/2/2025		Giving: Eternally	CS Lewis: Screwtape Letters Hogue/Hetrick	Exploring Our Faith
11/9/2025		Giving: Abundantly	CS Lewis: Screwtape Letters Hogue/Hetrick	Exploring Our Faith
11/16/2025		Giving: Regularly	CS Lewis: Screwtape Letters Hogue/Hetrick	
11/23/2025		Giving: Today!	CS Lewis: Screwtape Letters Hogue/Hetrick	
11/30/2025			CS Lewis: Screwtape Letters Hogue/Hetrick	Family Advent Workshop

*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*

The **"Screwtape Letters"** by C.S. Lewis is a profound and thought-provoking work that explains the intricacies of human nature, temptation, and spiritual warfare. Written in the form of a series of letters from a senior demon, Screwtape, to his nephew, Wormwood, a junior tempter, the book offers a unique perspective on the moral and spiritual struggles faced by individuals. Through the lens of diabolical correspondence, Lewis explores themes of faith, virtue, vice, and the subtle ways in which evil can infiltrate human lives.

The Biblical Principles of the Screwtape Letters encourages believers to reflect on their spiritual journey and to strengthen their faith through understanding the tactics of spiritual warfare. Virginia Hetrick and Jesse Hogue will help guide your through the reading and review



### ◆ Parish Education Board Member

Provide Bible-based educational programs for the congregation that assists in building knowledge of the Christian faith and provides for spiritual growth and maturity. Establish objectives, set policies and supervise the educational programs of the congregation. Encourage participation of every member in Bible study. Cultivate the use of the Church Library. Monthly board meeting and 1-2 hours to support activities occasionally. To learn more, contact Nonie Knight, Tammy Songer or the Pastors.

### ◆ Vacation Bible School Team Leader Wanted

We are hoping for a fun, in-person outreach to our community in 2026. It can only happen with the support of our friends of St. Michael and a great leadership team. Please pray about how you will be serving the Lord during this Vacation Bible School season! *We need you all!* Talk with Tammy in the Church Office about more details.

School News | October 2025

# ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL

## SCHEDULE

6th Grade Camp 10/2 @ Five Pines - ALL DAY

*School Choir performs national anthem at volleyball game 10/2 @ 4pm*

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Grades & Worship Team - Sing at Pro Life Rally 10/12 @ 4pm

*Worship Team performs national anthem at XC Race 10/10 @ 4pm*

After Chapel Fellowship 10/17

ITBS Testing Begins 10/20

Kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Sings at Lamplight Services 10/25 @ 5pm

PTL Trunk or Treat 10/25 @ 6pm

KSO Visits SMLS 10/28 @ 10am

**No School October 31<sup>st</sup>**

End of 1st Quarter  
CFK will be open

## PTL

**Trunk or Treat - 10/25 @ 6pm** 

*We need lots of candy and volunteers to make this event happen!*

Candy collection starts 10/1

Check out the PTL calendar to save the dates

PTL Meeting - 10/7 @ 6:30pm

via zoom & in person @ 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom

## **READING SUGGESTIONS**

-  The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier
-  Bunnica: the graphic novel by James Howe
-  The Rough-Face Girl by Rafe Martin
-  The Bears on Hemlock Mountain by Alice Dalgliesh

## SPORTS

### Volleyball Schedule

10/1 @ 4pm - HOME vs Gagie

10/2 @ 4pm - HOME vs Premier Homeschool

10/6 @ 5pm - AWAY vs Kalamazoo Cougars

10/7 @ 4pm - AWAY vs Howardsville Christian

10/13 @ 4:30pm - HOME vs Paramount Charter Academy

10/16 @ 4pm - AWAY vs Paramount Charter Academy

### Cross Country Schedule

10/10 SMLS XC Race @ 4pm

10/14 Heritage Christian Meet #2 @ 4:30pm

10/18 Gobles Invitational @ TBD

**\*Boys & Girls Basketball Seasons are Coming Up! We still need a Boys Basketball Coach and assistant coaches!**



## THE LIFE OF DANIEL IN THE CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE

We have all heard the stories of Daniel. How he was kidnapped and taken to Babylon, how he was able to interpret the king's dreams, his walk around the fiery furnace and, of course, his night's stay in the lion's den. As a matter of fact, did you realize that he spent two nights in the lion's den? One under King Nebuchadnezzar and one under King Darius. Both kings were tricked into condemning him to face the lions and both were thrilled and amazed when he was unharmed the next day.

He rose in the service of the king of Babylon by interpreting his dreams to become a high government official, an advisor on policy and governance. He was a moral and ethical man and Daniel's integrity throughout his life was impressive.

He served under four different kings and was always honored for his integrity, honesty and faithful adherence to God's laws. However, the advisors, wisemen and magicians of his time hated him because he was different from them and the king favored his wisdom over theirs.

Daniel never compromised his faith as he served the roles God gave him. He never doubted that God could do anything, and God confirmed this belief many times.

However, in reading through Daniel's story, I found that his story is divided into two parts: His life as a young man in Babylon and his older self as a

prophet. Not only is it told in two parts in the Book of Daniel but also chronologically, he is included with a host of prophets. You can find his story among those of Ezra, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Zedekiah among others.

Daniel's first vision was of four great beasts emerging from the sea, each symbolizing a different nation. He also had a vision of a ram with two horns symbolizing the Persian Empire, and a goat with a prominent horn, representing the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great. In Daniel 9, you will read about the vision of The Seventy Weeks that predicted everything they were going to have to go through before the coming of the Messiah.

What a blessing it has been to read through the Old Testament this way and being able to put events and lives into the perspective of when they really happened. I still have more of Daniel to read along with other minor prophets at the end of the Old Testament and then I'll move into the New Testament. Looking forward to what new insights I will discover there.

God Bless you in the reading of the Bible this year.

*Virginia Hetrick* – Prayer Coordinator



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## LCMS Foundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Fred was perturbed. His friend Mike asked what was wrong. Fred, a retired accountant, began emotionally sharing how frustrated he was that his home budget predictions for groceries weren't covering the cost. "Every week my wife keeps begging me for more money to do grocery shopping. I just snap back at her that I didn't budget for that five years ago. A budget is a budget."

We all probably can see the silliness of this story. Yet it points to how we can allow our plans to be fashioned in cement to such an extent that they aren't keeping up with the reality of today, or even the changes that might happen in the future.

In estate planning, it never works to create a plan and then believe that it will stay in place without any changes needed for thirty years. Families change. Economics changes. Health changes. Ministries I wish to support can change too. Because of all this change, our estate plans must keep up.

Is it time for you to begin a review of what your plans were in the past, seeing if they are aligned with present realities? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact...

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



## YOUTH AND JESUS

Our Lord continues to bless us here at St. Michael in and through our families, and, in particular, our youth. From the moment of baptism, God claims us as His own and places us into His family, the Church. We rejoice that our children and young people are not only the future of the Church but are a vital and irreplaceable part of Christ's body of Mighty Messengers here and now.

The growth of faith in our youth is never something that happens in isolation. It is nurtured most deeply in the home, where parents, grandparents, and loved ones model what it means to trust in Jesus. When family members pray together, talk about God's Word, and worship side by side, they plant seeds of faith that the Spirit continues to water and grow. Our congregation is blessed to walk alongside families in this sacred calling, supporting them in the joyful work of raising up disciples.

As we look at the life of our church, we see how each age group has a unique place in God's work among us. Our junior high youth are beginning to ask the big questions of life and faith. These years are filled with change, energy, and curiosity. In the church, and with the support of their families, they are given a safe place to grow, build friendships, and learn that their identity is secure in Christ. Through Bible study, worship, acolyting, fellowship, and service projects, they begin to see how their faith connects to everyday life.

Our senior high youth, built on that same foundation, continue growing into their identities as young adults in the church. These older teens are thinking more about their future, their gifts, and the roles God is calling them into. With the guidance and encouragement of both their families and their church family, they dive into deeper conversations about faith, leadership, and service. They are invited to step into ownership of their faith, serving alongside adults in the congregation and preparing to carry their walk with Christ into life beyond high school.

Though junior high and senior high have slightly different rhythms and focuses, the heart of both is the same: to help our young people know Jesus as their Savior and walk with Him each day. We give thanks to God for our youth, their families, and the ways He is shaping them to be His Mighty Messengers now and in the years to come.

Please keep our youth and their families in your prayers, that Christ would continue to bless and guide them as we live as Mighty Messengers together.



### October Calendar of Events:

#### **Sunday, October 5**

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

#### **Sunday, October 12**

9:45 am Bible Study - XXXX  
1-3:00 pm Loading LWR Truck  
5:00 pm Prayer for Life Rally

#### **Sunday, October 19**

9:45 am Bible Study - XXX  
5:00 pm Youth Group

#### **Saturday, October 25**

4:00 pm Trunk or Treat

#### **Sunday, October 26**

9:45 am Bible Study  
5:00 pm Youth Group

**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**

# 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*



Rev. James & Deaconess Christal Neuendorf visited St. Michael recently. They shared the Gospel in a Children's Message, God's Words in Worship, and information about their faith journey and ministry of church planting in Puerto Rico during the Learning Hour.



Fall is here and that means **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** collection is just around the corner! As you make preparations for Fall Festivals and Thanksgiving celebrations, plan also to fill a shoebox with gifts for a child who needs to know the love of Christ.

*New to this ministry?* It's headed up by Franklin Graham and Samaritan's Purse and is a world-wide operation. People in many countries pack a shoebox with small toys, hygiene products, socks, shirts, etc. and through a well-organized process the boxes are shipped to poorer areas - including some in the US. Children who receive a shoebox are also given the greater gift of being introduced to Jesus and the love He has for them. *What better gift can be given?*

**Shoeboxes will be available for you October 26 - November 9. The last day to return them is November 16.** Boxes can be picked up/returned at the display in the Communication Center. Every box will have instructions inside with suggestions on items to include. But remember - the most important thing you can include is your love and prayers. God has in mind a specific child that needs to know that you care.

Can't or don't like to shop? For \$30 you can build a box on line! For personal stories and more information go to [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ)

# 2025 Celebration and Prayer for Life Rally

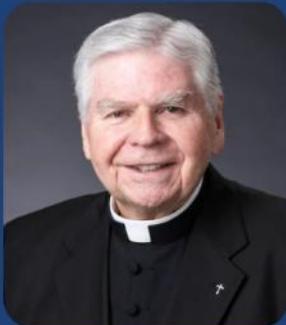
## *Celebrating the Sanctity of Life*



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**PASTOR MICHAEL L. BROWN**  
*Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries*



**PREGNANCY HELPLINE OF THREE RIVERS**  
**ICU MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT**  
*Tours Available*



**SPEAKER**  
**BISHOP EMERITUS**  
**PAUL J. BRADLEY**

**OCTOBER 12, 2025**  
**5:00 PM, DOORS AT 4:00 PM**  
**Saint Michael Lutheran Church**  
**7211 Oakland Dr Portage, MI 49024**

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

**Master of Ceremonies:** Pastor Paul Naumann, Saint Michael Lutheran Church and School

In unity, we are seeking God's blessing on all human life, especially the unborn and those at end of life.

This is NOT a political event.

### OTHER SPEAKERS

- Amber Roseboom, *President of Right to Life of Michigan*
- Christina Madison, *Director of Positive Options, Allegan*
- Dawn Bowen, *Director of Pregnancy Helpline of Three Rivers*
- Rebecca Rouch, *Testimonial on the life of baby Daniel*
- Diane Barton, *Executive Director of Wings Home*

Please consider bringing any of the following items for Positive Options - Allegan and Pregnancy Helpline of Three Rivers:

Wipes, baby wash and lotion, diapers - size 3 to 6, 6-month to 2T clothes, 12 to 24-month onesies, adult shampoo and conditioner

# MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

*John 13:34-35 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

What can give struggling families in Kalamazoo more hope than seeing the love of churches, businesses, civic organizations and schools working together to feed those in need into the holiday season? **Jesus Loves Kalamazoo is in need of people to organize food drives.**



***In our 65th year of serving the community, as we respond to God's call and his love for us, friends of St. Michael Lutheran Church & School are asked to contribute to this community-wide effort. For the next 3 weeks, you are asked to share your blessings through this initiative. A collection box will be available in the Welcome Center through October 19th.***

**SUGGESTED FOOD ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED:** Canned Tuna or Chicken; Pastas of All Kinds; Peanut Butter or Jelly; Spaghetti Sauce; Canned Vegetables (all kinds); Canned Soups & Stews; Boxed Food of All Kinds; Coffee, Tea, Fruit Punch, Lemonade; Cereals; Seasonings: Salt, Pepper, Garlic, Cinnamon, Onion Powder; Toothbrushes/Tooth Paste; Soap; Shampoo; Vitamins; Dental Floss  
**PLEASE NO GLASS CONTAINERS ONLY PLASTIC OR CANNED CONTAINERS**

If you prefer, a financial gift can be given directly to [Jesus Loves Kalamazoo to do the shopping.](https://jesusloveskzoo.org)

***You can also volunteer to help organize the food with other JLK Volunteers on Oct 24 (3p-7p) and give out the food on Oct 25 (9a-1p).*** <https://jesusloveskzoo.org/the-harvest/>



***Unless there is a special event hosted, on most Sunday mornings you will now be able to find your morning coffee in our Communication Center. Be sure to thank the Fellowship committee that prepares it for you. Grab a cup and head into a classroom!***



Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](https://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

When you open the link, [issuesetc.org](https://issuesetc.org), on your computer you can;

1. Listen to talk radio
2. Listen to Sacred Music – they like to say their play list is 2000 years old.
3. Listen to the daily chapel at the seminary. It's like another 30 min church service.
4. Will Weedon has a daily 15 min Bible study called the Word of the Lord Endures – this is on the side of the page about half way down. He is going through the Bible “chewing “ on each little bit.
5. There is so much more if you just explore the web page.

You can also see archives of past shows and discussions. You can put it on your phone for free.

# UPCOMING WITNESS WORKSHOP

presented by Rev. Chad Lakies of Lutheran Hour Ministries



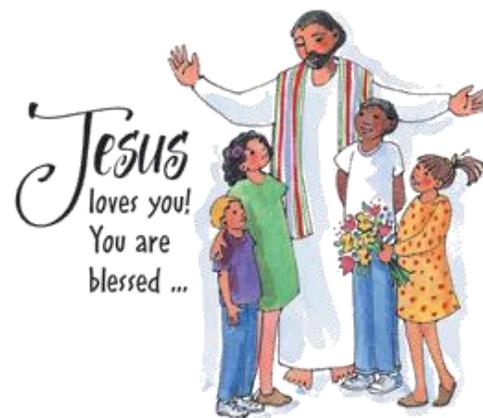
“SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS IN THE DIGITAL AGE” offers insights on:

- ⇒ Shifting definitions and practices over the past 25 years, including the perceived impact of social media
- ⇒ Perceptions of faith sharing from both sides of the conversation: the sharer and the hearer
- ⇒ A data-based profile of eager evangelists
- ⇒ Generational analysis of today's climate for spiritual conversations

Technology and rapid cultural shifts may have altered the face of evangelism, but the Great Commission remains the same. Please join us for a special morning of learning how to become a more mighty messenger for Christ.

Mark your schedule for Saturday, Nov. 1 - 9AM to NOON

*Refreshments available throughout the morning.*



## 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

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
\$25 booth fee  
supports the tuition assistance fund

**Happy Holidays MARKET**  
NOVEMBER 8TH  
9AM - 4PM

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TO SELL TODAY!**

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL  
7211 OAKLAND DRIVE  
PORTAGE, MI

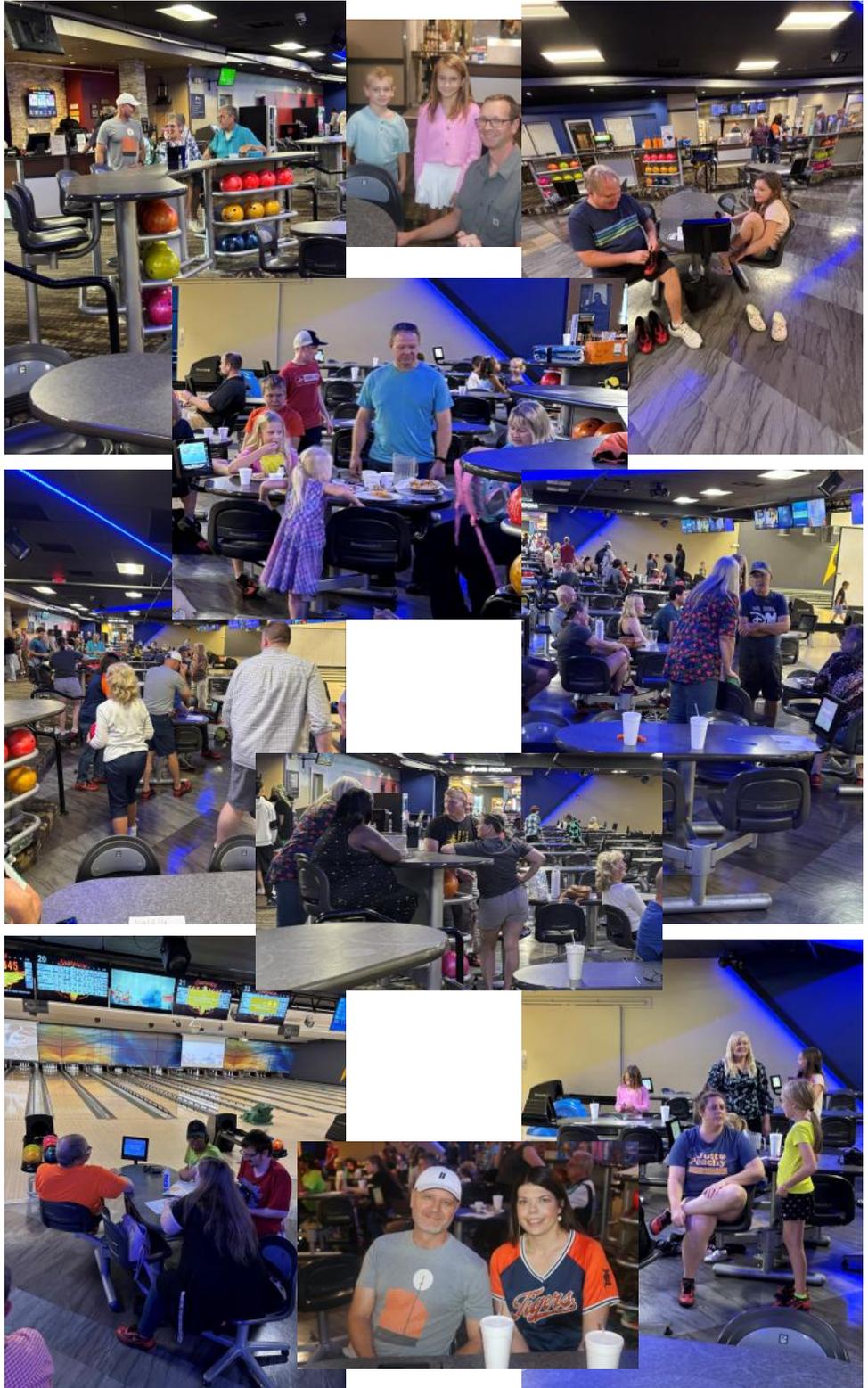
contact Jessie Duniphin  
marketing@mightymessengers.org

# 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*



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



# 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 18 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 2026, so bring your personal calendar with you.

**RSVP please to Kristi Rudowske**

Home: 269-324-5792

Text: 269-532-5043

Email: [kspitz2001@yahoo.com](mailto:kspitz2001@yahoo.com)



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18  
9am-12pm**

Board of Properties invites your family to come ready to serve, as we clean up various areas around our building.

Bring your gloves and tools that could assist. Dress for the weather outdoors.



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

**TRUCK** - Once again we will have a big truck in our parking lot on **Oct 11 and 12th**. We are the site to which the area churches bring their quilts, baby kits, health care kits, school bags, and sewing kits on those days.



**We will need volunteers** on Saturday the 11th from 9 to noon to help load the boxes that are brought to us. If you can be there that morning for any length of time, please let us know by calling the Church Office or Jan Jett at 269-580-5830. Likewise, the St. Michael Youth and families have traditionally loaded the truck for guests on Sunday the 12th from 1-3pm. **All that are available for this would be appreciated!**

# 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/>

## AUGUST FINANCIALS

10 Months

11/1/2024 - 8/31/2025

Church Revenue	\$ 687,055
School Revenue	\$ <u>974,812</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,661,866
Total Expenses	\$ <u>1,703,192</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ (41,325)
Expense Budget	\$1,745,705
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ (83,838)
Working Cash Balance	\$ (17,317)
Mortgage Balance	\$ 685,763

### Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$792,688
Building Contingency	\$ 40,723
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 30,000
HVAC	\$ 853
Technology Refresh	\$ 3,823
Sunday School	\$ 964
Youth Donations	\$ 8,298
Youth Accounts	\$ 4,558
Good Samaritan	\$ 6,323
Memorials	\$ 14,884
Fellowship	\$ 1,926
Champion Church Network	\$ 381
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 8,909
Quilting	\$ 1,715
POBLO South Asia Ministry	\$ 13,596
Student Debt Fund	\$ -
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 400
Luth Medical Emergency Fund	\$ 250
School Improvements	\$ 12,743
Tuition Assistance	\$ 43,141
School Music	\$ 4,027
School Sports	\$ 1,143
Flower Fund	\$ 1,112
Building Utilization	\$(22,412)
LWML	\$ 2,856
Women's Fellowship	\$ 1,447
Faith Budget	\$ -

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

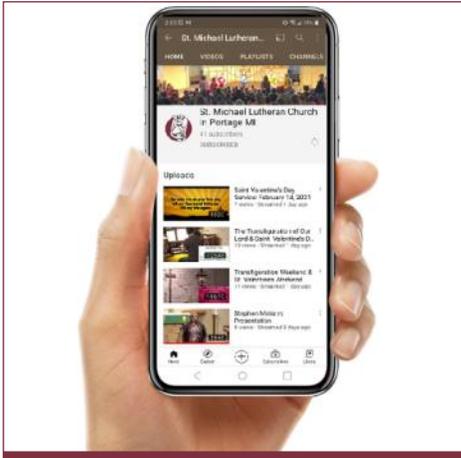
Annual Avg. 2024 . . . . . 351

June '25 Avg. . . . . 352

July '25 Avg. . . . . 318

August '25 Avg. . . . . 277

Sept. '25 Avg. . . . . 346



## 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:

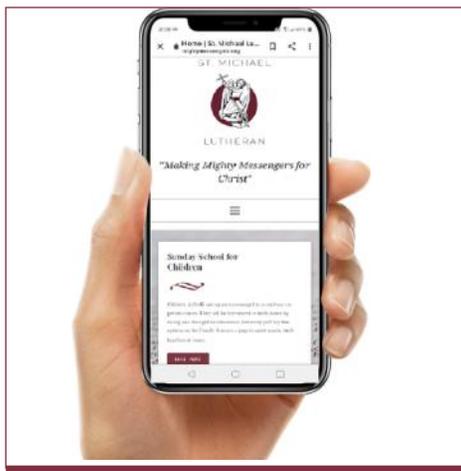
Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

### mightymessengers.org

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



An evening full of fellowship for a wonderful cause, as approximately 30 gathered for dinner, then others joined to assemble Baby Layette kits. Thanks to the many that sewed blankets & diapers, knitted hats & sweaters, purchased towels, soap and socks, boxed items and prayed for the project to be successful.



*You're Invited to an...*

**INTERNATIONAL Friendsgiving POTLUCK**

*Sun November 23rd*  
**12:30 PM**

*Bring a dish, Bring your family*

St. Michael School Gym



with sincere  
thanks

Dear St. Michael family,  
Thank you for all your support and prayers the last few months while I have been hiking the Appalachian Trail. It truly means a lot knowing that I had your support on this amazing experience. I could feel your prayers and God's presence every day I was out there. Thank you all again from the bottom of my heart.  
Sincerely,  
Jaron Taylor

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

**School Trunk or Treat**  
St. Michael family event!

**Saturday, October 25**  
**5pm - 8pm**

**Starts after Lamplight Service**

*a merry not scary night of fun*

The PTL is planning a trunk or treat event! If you're able to host a trunk OR bring in a bag of candy to the collection bins to help students reach our goal. Students will sing at Lamplight services that evening and then the party begins!

HAVE YOU SEEN THE  
**PAPER GATOR**  
IN THE PARKING LOT?



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

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

**WHAT CANNOT GO IN THE BIN?**

- Plastic · Metal · Trash · Glass · Cardboard

**WHAT CAN GO IN THE BIN?**

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



# 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 Rudowski

### **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 Rudowski

### **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**

Aaron Allen, 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