



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2026 Volume 65, Number 2

CONNECT WITH OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILY AT MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

"I have set before you an open door"
Jesus

“DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY”

When I was a kid my favorite game show was “Let’s Make a Deal.” When my parents would allow it, I would grab an orange soda and a bag of Doritos and even watch it on the master bedroom TV, entering in through a door that I normally wasn’t allowed to open. Sitting on their blue shag carpet floor and leaning up against their big be, I would be enthralled as Monty Hall would give the silly costumed contestants the opportunity to pick between what was behind door number one, two, or three. I couldn’t understand why they didn’t just choose door number two each time, for from my perspective that one always revealed a good prize and not a Zonk.

When I became a young adult, I found that life presents quite a number of doors of opportunity, and it was rather difficult to know which one to enter. When it came time to go off to college, I had my options narrowed down to three, but as time went on it became quite clear to me that God was closing a couple of those doors and helping me see which one He wanted me to enter. It was there in college that the Lord also closed a couple doors with respect to whom He selected for my life partner, and helped me see the one He would have me marry – thank you, Lord! Where to go to the seminary presented at least two doors to choose from, and at the end of those years our placement interview set a great many doors before us as potential places to serve. But thankfully it was not up to us, but to God as to which door He would open for us to enter into for our first congregation, and every ministry opportunity since.

Certainly there have been countless doors of opportunity before us about one thing or another over the years even as there have been for you. It can be difficult sometimes to know which door God wants us to go through and so we search the Scriptures and pray, trusting that the Holy Spirit within us provides us with some sanctified judgement. Thankfully there are many decisions that we face each day that are about things that are neither forbidden nor commanded and God is happy with whatever we chose. But there are other choices that life presents us with, that God does have a clear position on. These are the choices of right and wrong, good and evil, moral and immoral.

The secular culture doesn’t like these objective categories and binary thinking, but the Bible clearly defines things based on God’s design and desires. This gives us the opportunity to live our lives in this world with some clear direction and confidence so that we are not forced to thrash around in a murky morass of grey.

Of course, among the many choices we find in the world are the many churches and the various religions. Unfortunately, many people think that they are all more or less the same thing, and that all roads lead to heaven, even as all roads once led to Rome. Certainly it is true that every church and religion thinks that they are doing people some good, and providing them with doors of opportunity into personal improvement and maybe even into a better life beyond this one. But competing and contradictory opinions and perspectives can’t all be correct. Finally, as Jesus said, there must be only one way and one truth that leads to our Heavenly Father and to eternal life, and it is Him (John 14:6), and faith in His death and resurrection for us.

Our Lenten theme this year is going to put before us an open door that our Lord Jesus gives us, a door that no one can close (Revelation 3:8). Below are the topics for each Wednesday night service at 6:30 and on through Holy Week and Easter Sunday morning. Please enter into this door of opportunity.

- 2/18 Ash Wednesday: Jesus Is Our Only Access
- 2/25 Lent 2: The Door of the Ark (Genesis 6:16; 7:16)
- 3/4 Lent 3: The Passover Door (Exodus 12:7-27)
- 3/11 Lent 4: The Temple Door (1 Kings 6:23-28)
- 3/18 Lent 5: The Door of the Sheep (John 10:1-10)
- 3/25 Lent 6: The Door of Our Heart (Revelation 3:20)
- 4/2 Maundy Thursday: The Door to Heaven
(Revelation 4:1-11)
- 4/3 Good Friday: The Door of His Flesh
(Hebrews 10:20)
- 4/5 Easter Sunday: The Door of the Tomb
(Mark 15:42 -16:7)



WE ARE CALLED

to make disciples of *Jesus*

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR WEEKLY WORSHIP

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.

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:

Welcome to the family!



We received 30 new members on December 7, 2025.
The wonderful blessings of our *Exploring Our Faith* class from fall 2025.

28 people were able to read the entire Bible in a year, as participants in our 66:1 Bible reading campaign.

Jan Chilcott	Virginia Hetrick	Linda West
Mark Chilcott	Carolyn Hornev	Brian Zelner
Carol Conklin	Nonie Knight	Donna Zelner
Katey Conklin	Jerry Lentz	
Tracie Fisher	Patricia Lucas	
Todd Foster	Dana Naumann	
Bill Frailing	Joanne Neumann	
Sharon Frailing	Chris Rudowske	
Linda Fry	Kim Ruesch	
Gary Gerds	Barbara Schubert	
Brenda Heintz	Kathleen Taylor	
Matt Heintz	Greg Wedel	
Kaye Herbert	Lynne Wendzel	



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.

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 uplifting, 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 MINISTRY OF BEING THERE

We often assume that love has to be loud, impressive, or action-packed in order to “count”. We think of the right advice, the perfect words, or the heroic solution. But some of the most powerful acts of love are quiet—so quiet, in fact, that they can look like “nothing” from the outside. A friend sitting in a hospital waiting room, a spouse listening without fixing, a neighbor lingering on the porch after a hard day. In these small and steady moments, **love speaks through presence**.

To be present is to say, without needing many words, “You matter, and I’m not going anywhere.” It doesn’t require the right answers or a polished plan. In fact, the pressure to “do something” can sometimes get in the way. Presence gives the other person space to breathe, to grieve, to rest, or simply to exist without being hurried to the next thing. **Love is patient and present**.

Scripture shows us that this is God’s own way of loving. The Bible doesn’t just tell us what God says—it shows us where He is. “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18). Jesus promises the same in the Great Commission: “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). From the manger to the cross, His name—Immanuel, “God with us”—reveals His heart. God doesn’t bail when life gets heavy. He stays, He steadies, and He sticks it out with us, even in moments when we have stopped believing in ourselves.

As His people, we are called to live out that same kind of faithful presence. In a world full of noise and hurry, many around us are quietly longing for someone who will simply be there. Elderly widows, stressed parents, overwhelmed teenagers, grieving families—none of them need perfect speeches. They need presence.

So perhaps this month we can ask, “Where is God inviting me to simply be?” Maybe it’s a visit, a phone call, a shared cup of coffee, or just sitting silently beside someone who hurts. In Christ, love is not always something we do; sometimes, love is someone we are—with others, and for others, just as He is for us.

“Where is God inviting me to simply be?”

Maybe it's a visit, a phone call, a shared cup of coffee, or just sitting silently beside someone.

Pastor Maske



The Power of God : Rev. Paul Shoemaker

February 1, 2026 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

In the early church, Christians were being challenged by people who said the Christian faith was foolish. Today, the faith of Christians is still challenged as foolish. We know the “word of the cross ... is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18

Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Readings: Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Featured Choir: LWML Indiana District Choir Featured Art and Architecture: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Arcadia, Ind.

Salty Christians : Rev. William Mueller

February 8, 2026 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

In His “Sermon on the Mount”, Jesus pulls us deeper into an understanding of our relationship with Him. He uses the metaphor of salt and light. Just a little bit of salt brings some great flavor. In complete darkness, even a small light will change everything. Yet in all this, Jesus still has a surprise for us!

Sermon Text: Matthew 5:13-20

Readings: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 58:3-9a; Matthew 5:13-20

Featured Choir: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Decatur, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Zion Lutheran Church, Decatur, Ind.

The Wrong Mountain : Rev. Scott Zeckzer

February 15, 2026 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord

There are times in our lives where we have “mountain top experiences.” The problem is that they do not last; they are forgotten. There is one “mountain top experience” that changed everything. Tune in to “Worship Anew” to find the right mountain.

Sermon Text: Matthew 17:1-9

Readings: Psalm 2:6-12; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Featured Choirs: Choir of the Council of Presidents of the LCMS; St. Paul Lutheran School, Munster, Ind.; St. Michael Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Mason City, Iowa

The Great Exchange : Guest Pastor - Rev. Joe Hoem

February 18, 2026 – Ash Wednesday

Lent isn't about improving ourselves but about seeing what Christ has done for us. The One who knew no sin became sin in our place, bearing our guilt on the cross. In Him, we are made righteous, forgiven, and free to live as God's beloved.

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Readings: Psalm 51:1-13; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Featured Choirs: Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.; St. Paul's Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Centralia, Ill.; St. John Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Jesus Also Was Tempted : Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

February 22, 2026 – First Sunday in Lent

The bad news is that we will be tempted by Satan throughout our earthly lives. The good news is that Jesus also was tempted by the devil in all the ways that we are, yet He never once sinned. He defeated Satan for us and now helps us overcome temptations of the devil.

Sermon Text: Matthew 4:1-11

Readings: Psalm 32:1-7; Genesis 3:1-13; Matthew 4:1-11

Featured Choir: Concordia Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Soest), 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

Total Christian Television (TCT) network nationwide broadcast is

Sunday 11:30 AM

Battle Creek - WTLJ 54

Grand Rapids - WTLJ-DT 24

Kalamazoo - WJPG-LD 26

Worship Anew is available throughout the country on broadcast stations and worldwide through our website, apps, and streaming on Roku, AppleTV, Google TV, Amazon Firestick, and YouTube.

We remember to pray for Homebound friends:

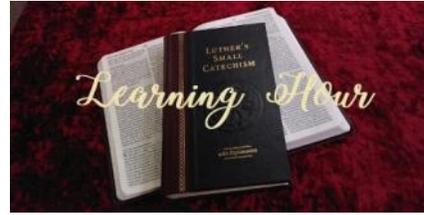
Jan Goertz Allan, Caroline Barkow, Sally Beck, Judy Chumas, Shirley Cosgrove, Bill Cremer, Ginny Evans, Sylvia German, Audrey Glover, Virgil Harrison, Harold & Carol Karnes, Bernie & Pauline Kubacki, Sandy & Joe Maya, Nancy Miller, Jim & Ardean Monck, Joan Pfister, Wilma Ritchie, Marilyn Sible, Ernie & 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 AM-10:45 AM

Begin in the Gym with Coffee & Donuts



Book of Revelation
Bible Study With Pastor Maske
Continuing into March



Preschool - 2nd Room #123
Adults Always Invited to Join Us!

3rd - 7th Grade
Room #122

New Volunteers Welcome!

Supervised child care is provided throughout Sunday morning worship services.



The Board of Parish Education is happy to say that we have a new VBS director for 2026.

Jenny & Frank Teague, are recent new members and SMLS/CFK parents to Emma and Ryleigh. Jenny has graciously accepted the request to serve the Lord at St. Michael in this capacity. She has lots of energy and enthusiasm for the planning.

Please mark your personal calendar for July 13-17 for students and volunteers to participate and watch for more details to come soon!



The Youth Group has a busy month of special events and fundraisers coming up in February.

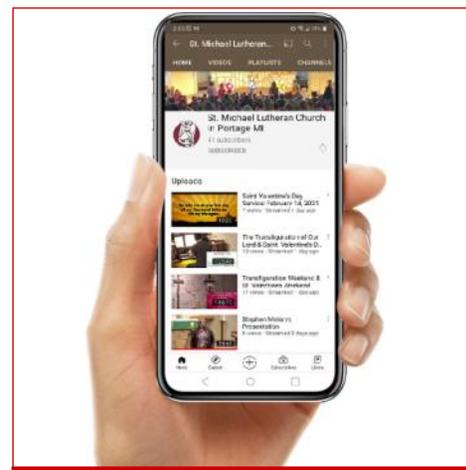
Date	Time & What
Feb 1st	9:45am Bible Study – Why Bodies Matter 12-2pm Lutheran Hour Summit – Community Service <i>No Evening Youth Group</i>
Sat Feb 7th	9am-12pm SUB SANDWICH-MAKING FUNDRAISER
Sun Feb 8th	9:45am COFFEE CLUB <i>No Evening Youth Group</i>
Sun Feb 15 th	9:45am Bible Study – Why Bodies Matter <i>No Evening Youth Group</i>
Tues. Feb 17 th	Set-up during school - PANCAKE DINNER FUNDRAISER
Fri-Sun Feb 20-22	SPRING HILL RETREAT
Sun Feb 22	9:45am Bible Study – Why Bodies Matter <i>No Evening Youth Group</i>

Families we ask you to mark your calendars, especially for these fundraisers and to plan to join us and work for a few hours. It is through these fundraisers that the church supports your youth and is able to provide such wonderful fun opportunities for them all year long.

For the Super Bowl Subs we need youth volunteers for publicity, to sell the subs, as well as to make the Subs on Feb. 7th and to distribute them on Feb. 8th.

Just a couple of weeks after the Super Bowl is the start of Lent and the Pancake Dinner Fundraiser. For many years the youth group has put on a wonderful dinner for this event and the congregation has supported us generously. Youth Families, please mark your calendars to participate. We are all looking forward to these and together many hands make for light work.

After our hard work is finished with these two fundraisers the Youth Group has the opportunity to go to WINTER CAMP at Spring Hill. This will be a fun weekend get away of Christ-centered time and lots of laughter with friends. All youth 6th-12th grade are invited to sign up. Please reach out to Deaconess Caitlin for more information at worden.cait@gmail.com or 313.914.9187



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:



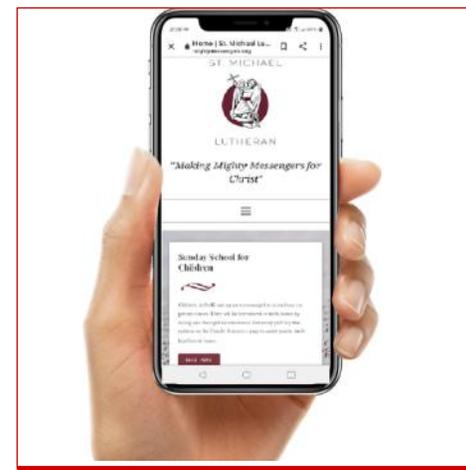
@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI

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.



School News | February 2026

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL

SCHEDULE

**Band & Choir Concert
rescheduled date!
2/5 @ 6:30pm**

**Drama Club Performance
2/13 @ 1pm & 6:30pm
Jonah's Druthers
*snow date 2/20**

Pancake Supper 2/17

K-2nd grade students sing @ 6:05pm

Middle School Coffee & Convo
Monday, 2/16 @ 6:30pm

Ash Wednesday Chapel
2/18 @ 1:00pm - Worship Team Sings

After Chapel Fellowship - 2/20

Optional PS Conferences - 2/23-2/26

Mid-winter break - No School, PS - 8
CFK Closed Friday, 2/27

PTL

Family Fun Night

Roller Skating @ Great Skate

2/21 6-8pm

register/pay in the office or online

PTL meeting February 3rd @ 6:30pm

VALENTINE'S DAY READS

-  NONFICTION: "A Year of Good News" by Martin Santana
-  PICTURE BOOK: "Ten Things I Love About You" by Daniel Kirk
-  CHAPTER BOOK: "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" by Kate DiCamillo

SPORTS

GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

2/4 @ 5pm - AWAY at Calhoun Christian School, Battle Creek

2/5 @ 4pm - HOME vs Gagie School
*Church Choir performs

2/9 @ 4pm - HOME vs Parchment

2/12 @ 4:00pm - HOME vs Kalamazoo Cougars
*School Choir performs

2/19 @ 4:00pm - HOME vs Tree of Life
*7th/8th Grade Band performs

2/26 @ 4:00pm - HOME vs Calhoun Christian School
*Worship Team performs

\$2 Admission to Home Games



2026-2027 Enrollment is now open!

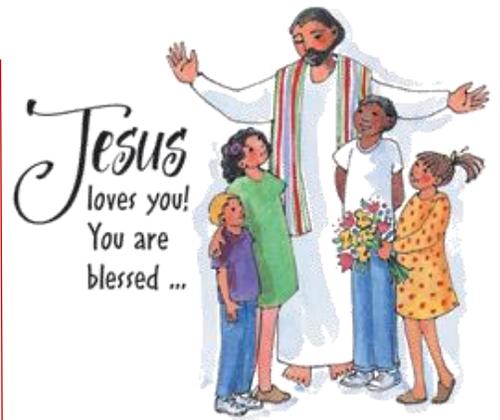
3's class : 2 days
T/TR 8:15am - 11:15am

Older 3's class/Young 4's : 3 days
M/W/F 8:15am - 11:15am

4's class : 4 days
T/W/TR/F 12:15pm - 3:15pm

Older 4's/Young 5's class : 4 days
T/W/TR/F 8:15am - 3:15pm

CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE
269.327.4889 STMIKESCHOOL.ORG



SHEPHERD GROUPS

<u>Lay Minister</u>	<u>Family Names Start with</u>	<u>Family Names & include</u>
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
Arian Wendzel 269-816-5632	U	Z

MOM to MOM SALE

St. Michael Lutheran School & Preschool
 7211 Oakland Drive
 Portage, MI

April 11th

9:00am - 2:00pm

SAVE THE DATE!

Set up Friday, 4/10 5-8pm
 with early access shopping for
 sellers & volunteers

School Program Tours & Information available during the event!

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

It is Potluck Lunch Time - Sunday, February 1st

following the late worship at about 12:30 pm



Christian artist, Marty Miller, will be at St. Michael for a concert at 1:00 PM on Sunday, February 1.

Marty is an accomplished musician, a songwriter and has a real heart for Christ. We hope you will join us!

Everyone is encouraged to also attend the 2:00 PM Lutheran Hour Rally Worship Service. Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, the Speaker of the Lutheran Hour, will serve as the preacher.

PANCAKE SUPPER
YOUTH GROUP SERVING PANCAKES & SAUSAGE
5-6:30 PM in Gym

Entertainment by: MagicBob & Chalk Artist SuZie

MAGICAL PRESENTATION BEGINS AT 6:30 PM

**DELICIOUS FOOD!
FUN FOR ALL AGES!**

SERVING THE LORD IN

Belize

NEWS FROM GROTH FAMILY



December 2025



December in Belize

One of the joys of the Christmas season was joining a tradition shared among the local missionaries: decorating cookies together. In the photo, our family is gathered with the family of Rev. Benjamín Flores, enjoying laughter, frosting, and the simple gift of time together. For our family, this was our first Christmas abroad, and we are still learning what it looks like to celebrate the season far from home while building new rhythms of life and ministry in Belize.

It was a blessing to step into a tradition that existed before our arrival and to experience the warmth of Christian fellowship that binds the missionary team together. Moments like these remind us that, even far from familiar customs and places, the Lord provides community and joy through His people, especially as we celebrate the coming of Christ among us.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to jason.groth@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

jason.groth@lcms.org

Buena Noche (Christmas Eve)



On Christmas Eve, a small yet meaningful service was held at Christ Lutheran Church in Seine Bight, where the congregation gathered in the quiet evening to rejoice in the gift of God's Son.

Though modest in size, the service was rich with familiar hymns and the promises of Scripture, reminding us that Christ comes to every heart called by grace. As the night drew to a close, we sang by candlelight until, after a moment of darkness, we were left to celebrate the true Light of the World. In that quiet pause, the Gospel shone all the brighter: the Light no darkness can overcome has come to dwell among us.



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*

community

Bulletin Board

TOWNHALL MEETING
Sunday, February 8
9:45 AM in Gym

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY
Sunday, February 22
12:15 PM in Sanctuary



**Use Our Digital
Giving Opportunities**

Visit: mightymessengers.org/donate

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/>

NOVEMBER FINANCIALS

2 Months

11/1/2025 - 12/31/2025

Church Revenue	\$ 183,809
School Revenue	\$ <u>225,666</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 409,474
Total Expenses	\$ <u>349,983</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 59,491
Expense Budget	\$ 362,224
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 47,251
Working Cash Balance	\$ 74,271
Mortgage Balance	\$ 918,472

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$836,833
Building Contingency	\$ 28,662
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 30,000
HVAC	\$ 853
Technology Refresh	\$ 1,577
Sunday School	\$ 4,746
Youth Donations	\$ 9,717
Youth Accounts	\$ 4,448
Good Samaritan	\$ 11,966
Memorials	\$ 14,984
Fellowship	\$ 4,516
Champion Church Network	\$ 401
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 9,010
Quilting	\$ 561
POBLO South Asia Ministry	\$ 10,596
Student Debt Fund	\$ 143
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 400
Luth Medical Emergency Fund	\$ 250
School Improvements	\$ 13,882
Tuition Assistance	\$ 27,503
School Music	\$ 1,983
School Sports	\$ 3,022
Flower Fund	\$ (63)
Building Utilization	\$ -
LWML	\$ 2,780
Women's Fellowship	\$ 1,760
Faith Budget	\$ -

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Annual Avg. 2025 389

Sept. '25 Avg.	346
October '25 Avg.	366
November '25 Avg.	338
December '25 Avg.	583

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

It is hard to believe that 2025 has already passed by. Before we start the new year, we need to stop and thank all the volunteers and staff that have provided support to Fellowship during the holiday season.

Thank you to those who have sponsored and attended Advent meals, coordinated and supported various events such as Advent by Candlelight, bags for our homebound friends, church decorations, staffed our additional holiday services and baked and purchased all those cookies.

As we look towards 2026, we invite you to participate in making the Lenten season a special one, as we honor the sacrifices our lord Jesus Christ made on our behalf. Please join in the Lenten meals and services.

Make sure to watch the weekly announcements for upcoming events. There are many events in the planning stages. Hope you can make it!



January BUNCO Night was a lot of fun!!



Kid's Life Skills Class prepared a yummy, warm meal before one of the Advent services in December.



Tired of cold, snow and wind? Want to make some time to warm up and beat the winter blahs?

**Join women of St. Michael for a night out
Monday, February 9th at 6:30pm**

We will meet at Monelli's Italian Grill & Sports Bar

(7141 S. Westridge Ave, Portage).

Come for dessert, dinner, drinks or snacks and warm up with good food and the fellowship of other Christian women. RSVP by Friday, February 6th. Call or text Kathy Zakarias (815-519-2181) or email k5zakarias17@gmail.com.

A sign up sheet will also be in the communication center at SMLC.

No Women's fellowship events in March in observance of Lent.

Save The Date: Women's fellowship Birthday Bash- Saturday, April 25th, 1pm at St. Michael Lutheran Church & School.



Your invited... Please consider joining the Fellowship Board. We are looking for individuals who would like to help plan and facilitate various events for the enjoyment of the congregation and help support our St Michael community. We need help to plan our summer picnic in addition to other fun events. We also have a need for individuals to take on specific priorities including Assistant Director, Sports Director, Sunday Morning Coffee Coordinator, Funeral Reception Coordinator, and Kitchen Coordinator. These individuals take on specific needs that the congregation relies upon. For further information, please contact Diane Gibson at 925-989-5059 or email to: voxnaswede@aol.com.



We are once again collecting fleece for Blankets to go to Bronson Children's Hospital. Monetary donations can be given to Kathy Taylor (Box 353). We would love it if you could donate pieces of fleece (1.5 yards per side), or make a tie blanket and donate. A donation basket will be out the whole month of February, sitting near the wooden chest in the Communication Center.. Tie Blanket-making Party will be Monday, March 9th at 6:30 PM in the Gym.

Give
THANKS
WITH A GRATEFUL
HEART 1 Thessalonians. 5:18

Rika Noggle wishes to express her sincere thanks to all that supported her during her lengthy illness and recovery. Your prayers, the meals and encouragement was a great blessing!

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:

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SCHOOL SECRETARY

Sharon Robinson

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Brenda Heintz

FIRST GRADE TEACHER

Maralyse Worm

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

Annie Hecht

THIRD GRADE TEACHER

Jennifer Humbarger

FOURTH GRADE TEACHER

Dawn Heid

FIFTH GRADE TEACHER

Megan Cummins

SIXTH GRADE TEACHER

Emily Lauterbach

SEVENTH GRADE TEACHER

Julie Prentice

EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER

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Chris Rudowski

WORSHIP MEDIA SPECIALIST

Lorraine Dudash

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Carolyn Bertrand

ORGANIST

Keith Eiser

MORNING SONG DIRECTOR

Jane Connon

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Mark Ruesch

VICE PRESIDENT

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Vacant, Assistant Director

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Dan Marshall, Director

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Vacant, Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vacant, Chairman

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Vacant, Director
Jerry Kuss, Jeff Burnett

YOUTH GROUP LEADER

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

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Lane Bertrand, Pam Sward, Karen Taylor
Zachary Button, Peter Robert, Ann Olson
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