



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

MARCH 2026 Volume 65, Number 3



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

JOINED TO JESUS

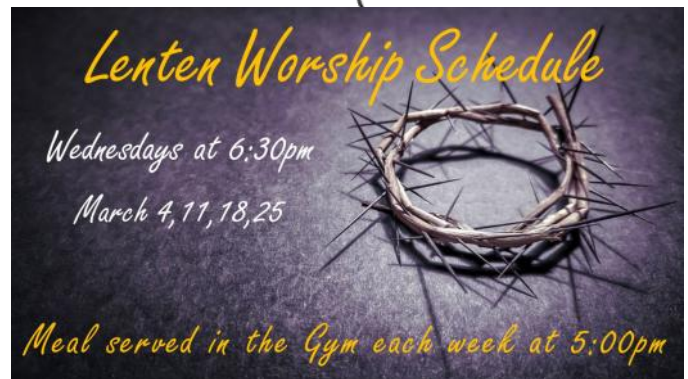
Ever since the Son of God took on human flesh just like ours, and was born as a real human being into our world, all His experiences in this world were for us and for our salvation. His circumcision, which gave Him the name of Jesus and brought Him into the covenant community, was so that He would fulfill all the requirements of the Old Testament Law on our behalf and render them completed and no longer binding on us as His New Testament people. Likewise, in His baptism by John in the river Jordan Jesus fulfilled all righteousness for us and ratified our baptism into Christ as a means of grace by which we receive His righteousness. As St. Paul makes clear in Romans 6, our baptism into Christ connected us to Christ, and to His death and resurrection so that they are not only His but ours. As I mentioned on the First Sunday in Lent, the temptation that Jesus endured during His forty days in the desert is not unique to Him or just for Him. He was tempted in every way that we are (see Hebrews 4:15) because we are tempted, and His victory over all temptation was on our behalf so that He might be able to give us the blood bought robe of His righteousness to cover our naked sin.

In other words, God has joined us to Jesus such that what happens to us in life also happened to Jesus, and what happened to Jesus also then happens to us. Realizing this makes the suffering and passion that Jesus endured toward the end of His life not merely a historical novelty to be remembered, like reflecting upon what happened to our country on December 7, 1941, or September 11, 2001. No, Lent is not merely the commemoration of a tragic death of a popular hero. Rather, our suffering is Jesus' suffering, and Jesus' suffering is our suffering. The same Savior who carried His cross up Golgatha ("the place of the skull") also calls us as His disciples to take up our cross and follow Him. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus invites us to eat His body and drink His blood

and thereby take Him within ourselves so that He becomes part of us and we Him. Finally, and most wonderfully, Jesus' resurrection from the dead is our resurrection too. As Jesus put it, "Because I live you will live also" (John 14:19). As St. Paul wrote so often in his epistles, as believers in Jesus we are "in Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:30, etc.). Whatever Jesus experienced in life, and whatever we experience in life, all go together on purpose. When it comes to life in this world and even in the next, we're all in it together with Jesus.

This is a difficult thing to try to explain or describe, but many a Christian has found meaning in their suffering by connecting it to the suffering of their Savior. And, of course, they have also found hope and comfort in the victory over all things that Jesus has won for us, even His ultimate victory over death. As we continue in our Lenten journey through the month of March, and culminate the month with the Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday that begins Holy Week, let us appreciate all the more what Jesus experienced in this world, knowing it was for the very reason that we experience it too, and that it was for the express purpose that all of our experiences, even our suffering, might be redeemed by our Brother, our victorious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Him with you,



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

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.



Preschool - 2nd Room #123

Adults Always Invited to Join Us!

3rd - 7th Grade Room #122

New Volunteers Welcome!

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29 - 8:30am & 11am

Maundy Thursday, April 2 - 6:30pm

Good Friday, April 3 - 6:30pm

Holy Saturday, April 4 - 5:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 5 - Sunrise 7:30am

Family Breakfast 9:00am

Morning Song 11:00am

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

PRAY HARD

There are those beautiful mornings when prayer feels as easy and natural as breathing. And then there are mornings when it feels like lifting a stone.

Every Christian knows that second kind of morning.

We imagine prayer rising from a warm and willing heart. But often prayer begins somewhere else entirely – in dryness, distraction, even resistance and pain. And yet that is often where the most faithful prayers are forged.

The Psalms are full of saints who prayed when they did not feel like praying. “Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God” (Psalm 42:5). Notice that the psalmist does not wait to feel hopeful before he speaks to God. He speaks *into* his turmoil. He defiantly prays his way toward hope in God.

Feelings are real, but they are not our Lord. Jesus does not say, “Pray when you feel spiritually ready.” He says, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find” (Matthew 7:7). The command itself is a gift. It assumes we will not always feel like asking.

Martin Luther understood this well. He once wrote, “When I feel that I have no desire to pray, I say, ‘This is precisely when I need to pray.’” Luther knew that prayer is not first about emotional temperature; it is about trust. It is turning toward the Father because He has already turned toward us in Christ.

Sometimes the holiest prayer is simply opening the Psalter when you would rather scroll your phone. Folding your hands when you feel numb. Whispering, “Lord, have mercy,” when you have no eloquent words. Romans 8:26 comforts us here: “The Spirit helps us in our weakness... the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.” Even our reluctant prayers are carried heavenward by the Spirit.

At St. Michael, we are not called to be Christians of constant spiritual excitement. We are called to be Christians of promise. And the promise is this: the Father hears you – not because your heart feels strong, but because Christ **is strong**.

Pray... especially when you don't feel like it. That may be the very moment your Father is drawing you closest to Himself.

Yours in prayer and in Christ,

Pastor Maske



Land, Legacy, and Life!

March 1, 2026 – Second Sunday in Lent

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

God holds your entire world in His hands through three special gifts: Land, Legacy, and Life! Learn how these gifts, promised more than four thousand years ago to Abraham continue to share our past, present, and future.

Sermon Text: Genesis 12:1-3

Readings: Psalm 121; Genesis 12:1-9; John 3:1-17

Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Junior Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. John Lutheran Adult Choir, Indianapolis, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Living Water

March 8, 2026 – Third Sunday in Lent

Rev. Shayne Jonker

Our sin has left us parched and thirsty. No mere water can quench our thirst for God. Oh, how we try the alternatives. But, the polluted puddles of this world's religions and spiritualities can't quench the deep thirst we have for righteousness, for wholeness, for peace. Only God can provide that Living Water which flows freely like a stream. Only God in the flesh opens up that stream to us so that we may drink and live.

Sermon Text: John 4:10

Readings: Psalm 95:1-9; Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-26

Featured Choir: Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.

Featured Art and Architecture: Christ Lutheran Church, Woodburn, Ind.

Eyes That See

March 15, 2026 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Paul Shoemaker

Jesus performs a miraculous sign, giving sight to a man born blind. What a tremendous gift! But the religious leaders, who were spiritually blind, refuse to see with the eyes of faith that the Man before them is the Christ. We thank God for spiritual sight and the opportunities we have to lead others to spiritual sight.

Sermon Text: John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

Readings: Psalm 142; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

Featured Choirs: Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Centralia, Ill.; Indiana District LWML Choir

Featured Art and Architecture: Zion Lutheran Church, Woodburn, Ind.

Is, Not Was

March 22, 2026 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Rev. William Mueller

John 11 brings us to one of the greatest miracles of Jesus: raising Lazarus from the dead. In this account, Jesus also teaches us two powerful truths. He shows what it means that He is the Resurrection and the Life, and He moves us to discover that believing this resurrection truth greatly impacts our life.

Sermon Text: John 11:17-27, 38-53

Readings: Psalm 130; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:17-27, 38-53

Featured Choirs: Saint Paul Singing Saints, Concordia, Mo.; Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.

Featured Art and Architecture: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Van Wert, Ohio

Do You Understand?

March 29, 2026 – Palm Sunday

Rev. Scott Zeckzer

We are told that the disciples did not understand what was going on during the first Palm Sunday. The crowds were excited about Jesus but were confused, too. What about you? Do you understand Palm Sunday?

Sermon Text: John 12:16

Readings: Psalm 118:19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; John 12:12-19

Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Angelis Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, 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, Bill & Sharon Frailing, Sylvia German, Audrey Glover, Virgil Harrison, Harold & Carol Karnes, Bernie 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

CARING FOR SHUT-INS

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

God commands us to *bear one another’s burdens ...* (Galatians 6:2a). He gives us opportunities to carry out this command by speaking understanding words or listening patiently. Phone calls, notes of encouragement, or personal visits can brighten someone who is alone most of the day, including their caregiver. Bringing a hot meal or providing respite care so the caregiver can take a break is appreciated. A spontaneous act of kindness can lift the caregiver’s spirit.

Even caregivers who try to hide their weariness or downheartedness need the warmth of God’s love shown through Christian care and concern. *Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other ...* (Colossians 3:12–13a NIV).

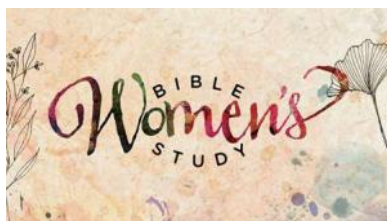
Please understand, this article does not talk about trained, experienced Stephen Ministers. They are a very special group of people who are dedicated to caring for people who are going through a very difficult time. This article is talking about the homebound folks and their caregiver (spouse, child or any other caring person) whose responsibility is to take care of a person who cannot live on their own.

If you have a heart for these folks who would love to have someone visit them and show them that they are not forgotten by the church family, there are several opportunities to remember them. Even if it is just a card, a phone call, a meal or a few moments of your time to schedule a short visit. Trust me – you will make their day!

Gracious Father, bless me with the gift of sensitivity so that I might see the needs of others and offer sweet refreshment to the weary. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Blessings

Virginia Hetrick – Prayer Coordinator



Tuesday Evening Ladies Bible Study invites you to join us! All interested ladies can contact Kim Ruesch kimiruesch@gmail.com or Barbara Schubert schubertbrs@gmail.com for more information.

School News | March 2026

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL

SCHEDULE

Once Upon A Story Time 3/3 @ 6pm
Preschool Reading Event

5th Grade Band Concert
3/5 @ 1pm & 6:30pm

KSO Field Trip
3/10 @ 10am, K-5th grades

SMLS CHOIR Sings at SMLC 8:30am
service, Sunday, 3/22

Sunday, March 22 - SMLS Sings
National Anthem K-Wings 3:00 pm
Student Arrival at 2:15pm

No School, PS - End of 3rd Quarter
Friday, 3/27




Spring Break - No School, PS-8th
Monday, 3/30 - Friday, April 3,
CFK Closed 4/3

PTL

Sunday, March 22 - SMLS Sings
National Anthem K-Wings 3:00 pm
Student Arrival at 2:15pm
Prepurchase tickets via link by 3/15

PTL meeting March 10th @ 6:30pm

EASTER READS

-  The tale of three trees by Angela Elwell Hunt
-  Loving Jesus, died for me (Arch Book) by Naomi Moon
-  Benjamin's box: the story of the resurrection eggs by Melody Carlson



SPORTS

Girls of Grace (girls grades 3-5)
Boys of Valor (boys grades 3-5)
Spring XC (girls & boys grades 5-8)

First Practice:
3/17 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Parent Meeting @ 4:30pm

Practice: T/TR 3:30pm - 4:30pm
XC Practice Tuesday Only

Archery

Saturday, 3/7 12:00
Portage Central Middle School

2026 Michigan NASP Bullseye and 3D
March 13-14 @ Lansing Center





The Youth Group will be going to WinterJam Sunday March 8. We'd welcome anyone from the congregation to join us all, young or old. Please contact [Caitlin Ramirez](#) to let us know you'll be coming.

| Date | Time & What |
|----------------------------|--|
| Sun March 1st | 9:45am Coffee Club |
| | 5pm Youth Group - Trivia Night |
| Sun March 8 th | 9:45am Bible Study |
| | 4pm WINTER JAM - Grand Rapids |
| Sun March 15 th | 9:45am Bible Study |
| | 3-5pm Youth Group - ARTbayou |
| Sun March 22 nd | 9:45am Bible Study |
| | 5pm Youth Group - Movie Night @ Heather's |
| Sun March 29 | 9:45am Bible Study |
| | NO Youth Group - Psalm Sunday |
| Sat. April 4 th | 9-12 Easter Breakfast prep. |



Thank you to everyone for supporting the youth through the Superbowl Subs. We are so grateful for your support which allows us to have a wonderful youth ministry here at St. Michael.

The Pancake Super was a huge success again this year. Thank you to all who donated supplies, came to help cook pancakes or joined us for the evening! The youth could not have done it without all of you. It was so wonderful to see a whole army of volunteers arrive to give of their time and energy to serve our young people and the congregation as a whole. Thank you for loving Jesus and these kids!



VISIT THE LIBRARY FOR OUR NEWEST “FAMILY RESOURCES”



Parenting in today’s complex world is harder than ever. Practical books for Christian parents are among the newest “Family Resources” titles added to the church library.

This is the third year that the library has been able to purchase books benefiting Christian families, thanks to a

fund designation from the Board of Parish Education. They are on display on a mobile bookcase purchased with a grant from the Church Endowment Fund.

New books to help improve

Christian parenting skills include:

- Keep the Siblings, Lose the Rivalry
- Boyhood Resurrected: Igniting a Revival of Daring and Heroic Boys
- Raising Worry-Free Girls: Helping Your Daughter Feel Braver, Stronger, and Smarter in an Anxious World
- Five Money Conversations to Have with Your Kids at Every Age and Stage
- Overplayed: A Parent's Guide to Sanity in the World of Youth Sports
- Parenting with Love and Logic: Teaching Children Responsibility
- Understanding and Loving Your Child in a Screen- Saturated World
- How to Help Your Child Clean Up Their Mental Mess
- Outdoor Kids in an Inside World
- Instructing a Child’s Heart
- Raising Emotionally Strong Boys
- Prayers of a Parent for Adult Children

New books especially for mothers include:

- A Confident Mom: Simple Ways to Give Your Child What They Need Most
- Create Anyway: The Joy of Pursuing Creativity in the Margins of Motherhood
- If Mama Ain't Happy: Why Minding Your Own

- Boundaries Is Good for the Whole Family
- Money-Making Mom: How Every Woman Can Earn More and Make a Difference
- Mama's Got Anxiety: But It's Not Going to Steal Her Joy
- Time-Saving Mom: How to Juggle a Lot, Enjoy Your Life, and Accomplish What Matters Most
- Honest Prayers for Mama Bears

New books to help with family devotions and teaching the faith include:

- Family Time: A Collection of 98 Bible Stories and Devotions
- The Very Best, Hands-On, Kinda Dangerous Family Devotions
- The Very Best, Hands-On, Kinda Dangerous Family Devotions, v. 2
- Portals of Prayer for Kids: 365 Daily Devotions
- Family Faith Walks
- Family Prayer Made Easy

New books to help families contend with contemporary, cultural issues include:

- Helping Your Child with a Bully
- Parent's Guide to Online Safety
- Not If, But When: Preparing Our Children for Worldly Images
- Taking Charge of ADHD
- The War on Children: Providing Refuge for Your Children in a Hostile World
- If You Ever Meet a Grown-Up Bully: Protecting Your Children from Predators
- Ready for Anything: Preparing Your Heart and Home for Any Crisis Big or Small
- Special Education Playbook for Parents

New books that can be read aloud to your children include:

- Dragon Slayers: The Essential Training Guide for Young Dragon Fighters
- The Nicene Creed for Families
- Hanging on Every Word: 48 of the World's Greatest Stories, Retold for Reading Aloud

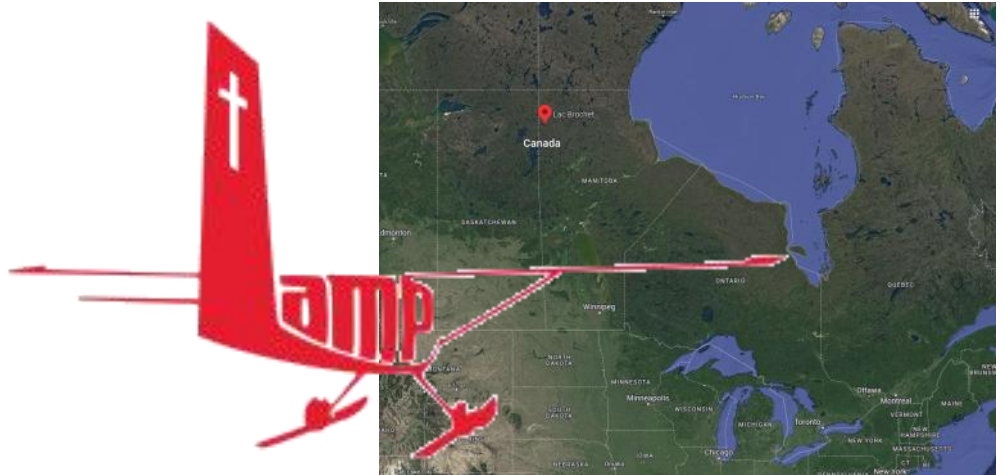
The library is open most Sundays between services from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Books may be borrowed for 28 days. If your name is in the church directory, then you have borrowing privileges.

Email library@mightymessengers.org with questions or to reserve titles.

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



Our congregation is preparing for an exciting opportunity to serve through the 2026 LAMP mission trip, and we invite you to consider being part of this meaningful ministry. LAMP is a cross-cultural outreach dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with God's people in remote areas of Canada. Each year, volunteers travel to northern communities to build relationships, support local families, and bring the hope of the Gospel through hands-on ministry.

In 2026, our team will continue to serve in Lac Brochet, Manitoba, a community we are eager to support through teaching, Vacation Bible School programs, community outreach, and mentoring students as they plan for a successful future. Volunteers play a vital role in creating a safe, encouraging environment where children and families can learn, grow, and experience Christ's love.

Anyone 18 or older is welcome to apply. We are especially seeking individuals with experience working with young children, parents, teachers, childcare workers, and anyone with a heart for kids. No special skills are required beyond a willingness to serve and a desire to share God's love.

The trip will take place in late July or early August, depending on volunteer availability. To help prepare, volunteers will participate in biweekly training sessions beginning in April, each lasting about an hour. These sessions will equip the team spiritually, culturally, and practically for the work ahead.

If you would like to support the mission but cannot volunteer, donations are a meaningful way to help. You can give through our church website by designating your gift for LAMP, donate through the office staff, or mark "LAMP" on your offering during Sunday service. Every contribution directly supports ministry efforts in Lac Brochet.

For questions or to express interest in volunteering, please reach out by email at zacharymbutton@gmail.com or by phone at 810-844-6860. We look forward to seeing how God will work through our congregation as we prepare for this mission together.

All Nations Celebration

March 14, 2026
St. Luke, Haslett

Register At:
(to help with planning food)

Join us for the second annual **All Nations Celebration** at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Haslett—a joyful gathering that highlights the beauty of cultures coming together in their shared Christian faith and community. Experience a powerful worship service featuring choirs representing many different countries, and be inspired by heartfelt presentations from immigrants sharing their personal experience of immigration and the meaningful ways churches supported them along the way. The celebration includes a delicious international lunch, catered by multiple local restaurants showcasing a variety of ethnic cuisines. Come worship Jesus together with brothers and sisters from across the globe and listen, learn, and taste the world—all in one welcoming place!

MAR 20-21, 2026
FRIDAY 7P-9P
SATURDAY 9A-4P

EARLY BIRD PRICING
\$40 **\$25 ADULT**
\$25 **\$15 STUDENTS**
\$125 **\$80 MAX PER FAMILY**

AWAKEN
MISSIONS CONFERENCE

A MULTI-CHURCH
CONFERENCE TAKING
PLACE AT CENTERPOINT
2345 10TH ST N
KALAMAZOO, MI 49009

MAIN SESSIONS
BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS
& INTENTIONAL
KIDS PROGRAMMING

WAKE ◦ SLEEPER SLEEPER AWAKE ◦ SLEEPER AWAKE ◦ SLEEPER SLEEPER AWAKE ◦ SLEEPER AWAKE ◦ SLEEPER

DISCOVER GOD'S
HEART
FOR THE NATIONS

- 1 INVITING ALL JESUS FOLLOWERS TO LABOR WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL
- 2 MOBILIZING BELIEVERS IN EVERY CHURCH TO THEIR CALLING IN THE GREAT COMMISSION AND ACTIVATING EACH INDIVIDUAL TO PRAY, SEND, GO, AND WELCOME THE NATIONS

REGISTER NOW AT
AWAKENCONFERENCE.ORG

W/ KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. TODD AHREND

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



Girls night out!

It was Girls Night Out at Monelli's restaurant on February 8th for Woman's Fellowship. Approximately 20 women gathered for good food, conversation and fellowship. Amazing night to just relax and visit.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 25th for the annual Woman's Fellowship's annual Birthday Bash celebration. You won't want to miss it!

Can't Sew? Doesn't matter

Join Fellowship for our 2nd annual Bronson Blanket Tying Party Monday evening, March 9th at 6:30.

We have the gym reserved and pizza coming. If you can tie a knot, you can make a blanket for a sick child to have when they are hospitalized. They are fast, easy and a lot of fun to craft together. These blanket make all the difference to a child hospitalized and often scared.

If you can't make the Tying Party, you can help make this program a success by donating 3 yards of fleece. (1.5 yards of two coordinating pieces) These can be placed in the bin in the Communications Center. Many thanks to all of those who have already contributed!



Enjoy people? Like planning events? Enjoy getting together with others?

Consider joining the Fellowship Team this coming year to help plan various events. If your not able to commit to being on the planning team, Fellowship could use your help to be a backup for Sunday Coffee, Donut pickup or occasional kitchen restocking when others are out of town or become sick. Contact Diane Gibson if you are interested in joining the team or can help out when additional help is needed. 925-989-5059.

Save the Date: Watch for more details...

St Michael Sunday, September 27th

Schrier Park, Portage

Let's bring the church, school and Christ For Kids families together for a day of fun.

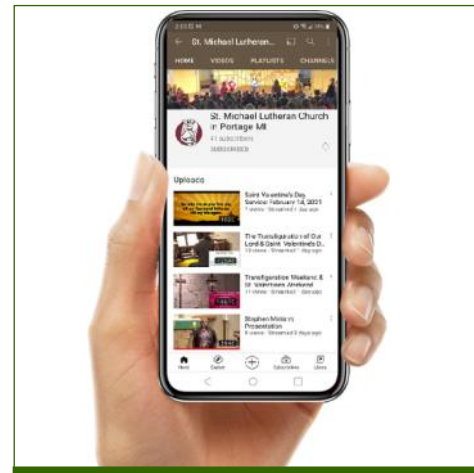




**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
DINNERS**

March 4, 11, 18, 25
MEAL SERVED IN THE GYM
EACH WEEK AT 5:00PM

Freewill offering supports Host ministry groups



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:

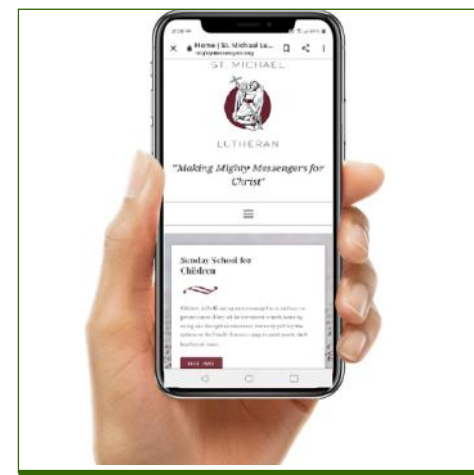
Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

mightymessengers.org

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



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!**

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*

The Call Committee has been meeting regularly since last August. It conducted a congregational survey in October and then worked with the Michigan District Office in preparing a list of (17) candidates for our next Senior Pastor.

This list has now been narrowed down to six candidates who appear to best match the Pastor Profile that was generated from the congregational survey.

Call Committee members are watching broadcast services in which these candidates are preaching and officiating. The Call Committee will schedule video calls after Easter with the remaining candidates. The Committee has a list of questions that it will be asking them. A special Voters' Assembly meeting will be held once these interviews have been completed.

The Call Committee provided an update on this work at the Voters' Assembly meeting on February 22. The update included a resolution to revise the church Bylaws to include the purpose of each current and potential future ordained and commissioned and professional staff worker in the Bylaws and to have the Parish Planning Council be responsible for approving the allocation of their duties and responsibilities.

The next Call Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 24, at 7:00 pm.**

Please continue to pray that the Lord use this process to lead us to the candidate that He has already selected for our congregation.



ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| JESUS Children will engage with the Bible story of the week through a variety of activities designed to deepen understanding and connection. Students will listen to the weekly Bible story, learn and perform songs related to the story, and participate in prayers that align with the themes of the story. | SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL GROWTH Children practice sharing, taking turns, identifying emotions, and developing friendships through guided interactions and consistent routines. | CREATIVE ARTS & EXPRESSION Children express themselves through art, music, storytelling, and pretend play – building confidence, communication, and fine motor skills. |
| EARLY LITERACY, MATH & SCIENCE Children build early skills by exploring letters, numbers, patterns, and the world around them through theme-based learning and play. | WHOLE CHILD DEVELOPMENT Children develop socially, emotionally, physically, & cognitively through a balance of play, hands-on activities, and nurturing interactions. | CONSISTENCY & ROUTINE Children feel secure & confident as they follow a predictable daily rhythm that supports independence, self-help skills, and a sense of belonging. |
| PLAY-BASED LEARNING Children learn through meaningful play experiences that include songs, stories, sensory play and creative projects. | INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING Children receive personalized support as they explore at their own pace, with activities adapted to meet each child's unique developmental needs. | OUTDOOR & GROSS MOTOR PLAY Children explore the outdoors with riding toys, chalk, bubbles, and games that support movement, coordination, and joyful learning. |

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/>

JANUARY FINANCIALS

3 Months

11/1/2025 - 1/31/2026

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Church Revenue | \$ 287,245 |
| School Revenue | \$ <u>336,595</u> |
| Total Revenue | \$ 623,840 |
| Total Expenses | \$ <u>520,639</u> |
| Net Surplus (deficit) | \$ 103,201 |
| Expense Budget | \$ 567,005 |
| Under/(Over) Budget | \$ 56,835 |
| Working Cash Balance | \$ 117,981 |
| Mortgage Balance | \$ 915,795 |

Designated Fund Balances

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Endowment Fund | \$847,008 |
| Building Contingency | \$ 32,162 |
| Parking Lot Fund | \$ 30,000 |
| HVAC | \$ 853 |
| Technology Refresh | \$ 1,785 |
| Sunday School | \$ 4,901 |
| Youth Donations | \$ 10,739 |
| Youth Accounts | \$ 3,848 |
| Good Samaritan | \$ 13,266 |
| Memorials | \$ 14,984 |
| Fellowship | \$ 14,352 |
| Champion Church Network | \$ 401 |
| L.A.M.P. Mission Trip | \$ 9,710 |
| Quilting | \$ 561 |
| POBLO South Asia Ministry | \$ 9,596 |
| Student Debt Fund | \$ 143 |
| Church Worker Scholarship | \$ 400 |
| Luth Medical Emergency Fund | \$ 250 |
| School Improvements | \$ 17,983 |
| Tuition Assistance | \$ 25,241 |
| School Music | \$ 1,983 |
| School Sports | \$ 2,662 |
| Flower Fund | \$ (143) |
| Building Utilization | \$ - |
| LWML | \$ 2,887 |
| Women's Fellowship | \$ 1,289 |
| Faith Budget | \$ - |

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Annual Avg. 2025 389

Dec '25 Avg. 560

January '26 Avg. 325

February '26 Avg. 410

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
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BUSINESS & FINANCE MANAGER

Jennifer Stauffer
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CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CHILD MINISTRY COORDINATOR AND

RECORDING SECRETARY

Tammy Songer
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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

Jeff Lauterbach

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
Kristi Rudowski, Assistant Director

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Vacant, Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Jan Jett, Chairman

BOARD OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

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, Lynda Rea

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Lane Bertrand, Pam Sward, Karen Taylor
Zachary Button, 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
Vacant, Assistant Director

ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Jesse Hogue

CRADLE ROLL

Jan Jett

LIFE SKILLS CLASSES

Mary Wright

VBS

Jenny Teague

BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Diane Gibson, Director
Judy Schroeder, Assistant Director

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP / LWML

Kathy Zakarias

SPORTS MINISTRY

Vacant

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

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