



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

JUNE 2026 Volume 65, Number 6



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

WHEN IN ROMANS

Sometimes we use the old expression “when in Rome...” when we deliberately adjust our behavior or lifestyle in order to fit into the culture where we are. Obviously we need to be careful that we only do this within the parameters of God-pleasing morality, but when that’s not compromised it’s nice to live like the locals. For example, you might not care that much for Pecorino Romano cheese, or eating fish with the heads still on, or for that matter eating dinner at 9:00 pm, but if you happen to be visiting Rome, Italy that’s probably how you’ll dine because that’s what the Romans do. If you want to fit in, at least for the time being, then you’ll try to experience what it’s like to be one of them.

St. Paul was like this in his efforts to be as effective as possible in witnessing for Christ and communicating the good news about Him to people of other cultures than his own. He didn’t want to put up any unnecessary cultural barriers or roadblocks from people coming to faith in Jesus and being saved. While it was to the Corinthians and not to the Romans that he wrote his famous: “*I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some*” (1 Corinthians 9:22), it was nevertheless true that wherever Paul went on his missionary journeys he would make it a point as best he could to make cultural connections for the sake of the Kingdom. Whether he was in Corinth, or Athens, or Rome, whenever appropriate he would accommodate their local preferences as he endeavored not only to share life with them but to tell about the new life we can have in Jesus Christ.

Starting in this month of June and continuing throughout the summer, the appointed epistle readings are going to be from St. Paul’s letter to the church in Rome. This being the case, we’re going to be “in Rome” for a while, as it were, and we’re then given an opportunity for a sermon series derived from those Romans readings. The first reading is from Romans 4, but jumping in at that point requires that we have some context. It’s been said that the book of Romans is kind of a courtroom scene with God as Judge, all humanity on trial (including you and me), and St. Paul as the prosecuting attorney.

In the first two chapters, St. Paul points out how none of us can plead ignorance and claim we didn’t

know better. He writes: “*the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. . . therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things*” (Romans 1:18-20; 2:1). St. Paul the prosecutor then declares us all guilty as he writes: “*both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: ‘None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one’*” (Romans 3:9b-12). Finally, God the judge slams the gavel and decrees: “*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23).

But wait! Just as God was about to declare the death penalty upon us on account of our sin (see Rom 6:23a), in comes our defense attorney, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. St. Paul now sets forth our defense in Christ alone and declares that even though we have all fallen short of God’s glory we “*are justified by (God’s) grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness ... so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus*” (Romans 3:24-26).

So this kind of gets you caught up on what you missed so we can start our series in chapter four. Please join us for worship this summer and be with us when you’re in town, or at least online when you’re away. Wherever your summer adventures might take you, let’s all do what the Romans do.



WE ARE CALLED

to make disciples of *Jesus*

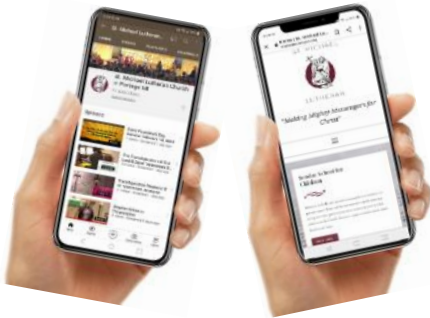
The vision of St. Michael Lutheran is to be a growing congregation within our local community that is *“Making Mighty Messengers for Christ”* by helping people:

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.



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.



UPCOMING Events

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| June 7th | Graduate Celebration
- 8:30 worship and 9:45 gym
NO EVENING YOUTH GROUP |
| June 14th | 9:45am Bible Study
5:00 pm Youth Group |
| June 21st | 9:45am Bible Study
Father’s Day - NO EVENING YOUTH GROUP |
| June 28-July 1 | Senior High Youth Gathering |



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

Congratulations 2026 High School Graduates

CALEB DAVID ANDERSON

Parents: Eric & Dianna

Baptized: 11/24/2007

Graduating: Heritage Christian

Future Plans: Indiana Wesleyan University, *Mechanical Engineering and Baseball*



GAVIN GRIFFIN MCCAIN

Parents: Jeffrey & Debbie

Baptized: 12/23/2007

Graduating: Mattawan HS

Future Plans: US Naval Academy, Aerospace Engineering/pilot



CHRISTINA ABIGAIL ANDERSON



Parents: Eric & Dianna

Baptized: 11/24/2007

Graduating: Heritage Christian

Future Plans: Cornerstone University, *English*

LOGAN KELLY MISKOVICH



Parents: Shannon & Monica

Baptized: 2/3/2008

Graduating: Portage Northern

Future Plans: Work before pursuing college courses.

ISABELLE MARIE CRAMPTON

Parents: Mike & Heather

Baptized: 8/19/2008

Graduating: Portage Central

Future Plans: Grand Valley State University, *Diagnostic Sonography*



WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER RUDOWSKIE

Parents: Chris & Kristi

Baptized: 12/16/2007

Graduating: Portage Northern

Future Plans: KVCC / WMU, *Animation & Game Art / Digital Marketing*



EMILY ROSE HAVENHILL



Parents: Eric & Meredith

Baptized: 1/27/2008

Graduating: Portage Central

Future Plans: University of Michigan, *Biochemistry (pre-med)*

ASHER JACE TOMAN



Parents: Jason & Serina

Baptized: 1/13/2008

Graduating: Homeschool

Future Plans: Career in Sales

SMLS SUMMER AFTER THE BELL



CAMP SPARK (AGES 7-13)

JUNE 15 - 18 9AM - 11AM

JUNIOR ELECTRONICS (AGES 6-8)

JUNE 22 - 26 9AM - NOON

DRONE CAMP (AGES 9-12)

JUNE 22 - 26 1PM - 4PM

MUSIC & DRAMA DAYS JUNE 17 & JULY 28
KINDERGARTEN - 3RD GRADE 10:30-11:30AM
2ND GRADE AND UP 12:30PM - 4:30PM

THYME TO COOK

JUNE 16 - 18 & JULY 6 - 8

GRADES 1-2 4:00PM - 5:30PM

GRADES 3-5 9AM - 11:30AM

GRADES 6-9 12:30PM - 3:00PM

GIRLS OF PRAISE (GRADES 3-8)

JULY 28, 29, 30 9:00AM - NOON

BASKETBALL CAMP GRADES 1-8)

AUGUST 3 - AUGUST 6 9:00AM - 3:00PM

BOARD GAME CLUB (GRADES 3-10)

JUNE 10, 24 & JULY 1, 15, 29 & AUGUST 12 & 19

GRADES 3-5 10AM - 11:15AM

GRADES 6-10 11:30AM-1:30PM

DOJO OF THE RISEN SON - MARTIAL ARTS

TUESDAY EVENINGS 6-8PM

*Interested in your student attending any of these Summer Camps?
Contact the School Office for more details about cost and registration.*

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 GOSPEL AGAIN?"

If you stop to think about it, we really do hear the same message every Sunday in worship. The hymns may change. The readings may come from different places in Scripture. One week we hear about a miracle, another week a parable, another week Christ teaching His disciples. The sermon itself may sound different from week to week. And yet at the center of it all is the same Gospel: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

As a child, I remember sometimes feeling that worship was repetitive. We confessed our sins again. We heard absolution again. We listened again to the story of Jesus showing mercy to sinners. Part of me wondered why we needed to keep hearing the same things over and over. But when we begin to grow tired of hearing the Gospel, it is worth remembering the people of Israel in the wilderness.

Each morning God provided manna for them in the desert. They had not planted it or earned it. God simply gave it to them day after day so that they might live. Yet after a time, even this gift became ordinary in their eyes. They grumbled against the God who was feeding them.

There is something of that same temptation in us. We can become so familiar with God's mercy that we stop marveling at it. Forgiveness begins to sound ordinary simply because we have heard of it so often.

And yet the repetition of the Gospel is not a weakness of the Christian faith. It is a reminder of how deeply we need it.

We do not need forgiveness only once in life. We need it continually. We do not battle sin, fear, guilt, and doubt only once. We carry these burdens with us every day. And so every week the Church gathers again to hear the same promises that Christians have always needed to hear.

Once again, Christ is proclaimed.

Once again, sins are forgiven.

Once again, weary hearts are comforted.

Once again, God reminds His people that they belong to Him.

The wonder is not that the Church keeps preaching the Gospel. The wonder is that God never grows tired of giving it. His mercy does not change. His promises do not fail. Generation after generation, He continues to speak the same saving truth to His people.

And for that, we should give thanks!

Thanks be to God for His unchanging Gospel. Thanks be to God that He has not replaced it with something newer, more fashionable, or more suited to the spirit of the age. The old message of Christ crucified and risen for sinners is still the power of God unto salvation.

May God preserve us from growing cold or indifferent toward it. Instead, may He fill our hearts with a deeper love for His Word and a renewed zeal not only to hear the Gospel gladly, but also to confess and share it faithfully with others — not changing it, softening it, or improving upon it, but simply rejoicing to pass on the same saving message that has been handed down to us.

Pastor Maske



Insiders and Outsiders

June 7, 2026 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Shayne Jonker

Imagine a doctor who didn't want to be around sick people. The doctor comes into the waiting room, he looks at all those runny noses and itchy eyes, hears all the coughing and sneezing, and he covers his mouth and nose and runs out of the room as fast as he can. Not much of a doctor, is he? Nor would Jesus be much of a Savior if He didn't care for the company of sinners. That was Jesus' mission – His purpose for coming into the world – to seek and to save the lost, to become lost in our death in order than we might be found in Him.

Sermon Text: Matthew 9:13

Readings: Psalm 119:65-72; Hosea 5:15-6:6; Matthew 9:9-13

Featured Choirs: Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Decatur, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: St. John Amelith Lutheran Church, Bay City, Mich.

Our New Heritage

June 14, 2026 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Paul Shoemaker

Our family's heritage is precious to us. We not only have a physical heritage, tracked throughout the years, but we also have a spiritual heritage. That new heritage connects us to Jesus and the blessings He comes to bring.

Sermon Text: Romans 5:6-15

Readings: Psalm 100; Romans 5:6-15; Matthew 9:35-10:8

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

Featured Art and Architecture: Zion Lutheran Church, Bay City, Mich.

Be a Tool

June 21, 2026 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. William Mueller

We celebrate the truth that we are, at one and the same time, a sinner who deserves nothing but God's wrath. But, we are forgiven by God and declared innocent of sin because of Jesus Christ. How do we live that truth out in our lives? Do we freely and willingly sin because we know we are forgiven? Do we struggle and beat ourselves up as we try to become better people? Or do we simply consider ourselves a tool?

Sermon Text: Romans 6:12-23

Readings: Psalm 91:1-10; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

Featured Choir: Holy Cross Lutheran School Junior Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bay City, Mich.

The Elephant in the Room

June 28, 2026 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Scott Zeckzer

The Lord calls us to follow Him. This is difficult in a world that is against Christ. Yet, in Jesus, we have peace with Him in a hostile world.

Sermon Text: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Readings: Psalm 119:153-160; Jeremiah 28:5-9; Matthew 10:34-42

Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. John Lutheran School, Plymouth, Wis.; Indiana District LWML Choir

Featured Art and Architecture: Trinity Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minn.



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:

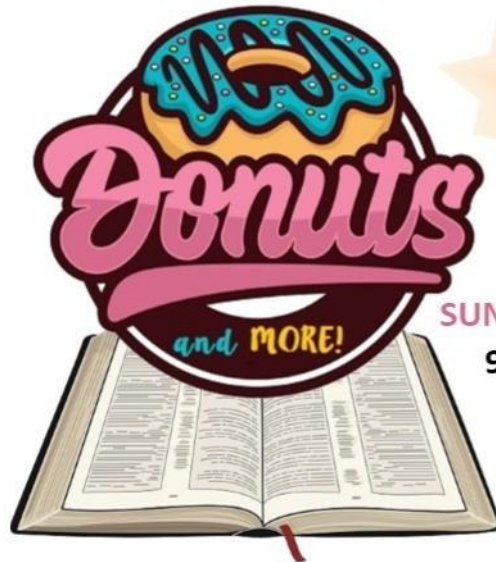
Jan Goertz Allan, Sally Beck, Judy Chumas, Shirley Cosgrove, Ginny Evans, Bill & Sharon Frailing, Sylvia German, Audrey Glover, Virgil Harrison, Harold & Carol Karnes, Bernie Kubacki, Sandy & Joe Maya, Nancy Miller, Jim & Ardean Monck, Joan Pfister, Wilma Ritchie, Marilyn Sible, Ernie & Judi VanOrman, 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

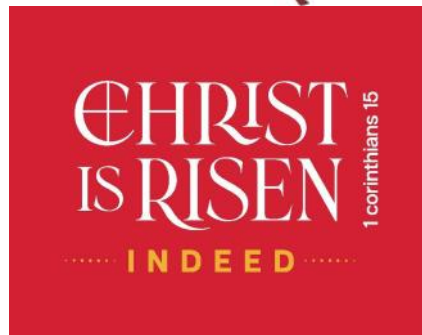


Join Us!

SUMMER
SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:45-10:45 AM

IN THE GYM



Alle
luia

When the women arrive at the tomb on the first day of the week, that's the greeting they get from the angels. Actually, the angels are very specific: they actually ask, "Why do you seek the Living One among the dead?" They're all about Jesus, the One who conquers death.

The importance of the resurrection cannot be over-stated. If Christ is not risen from the dead, there is no Christian church and no Christian faith. There is no hope, and life is reduced to an ongoing scramble of sinful self-preservation. But in fact Christ is risen from the dead, and this news changes everything for you in time and eternity.

In each lesson of this study, we'll examine a portion of 1 Corinthians 15, St. Paul's beautiful and triumphant case for the resurrection of Christ and His people. Along with that, each time we'll take a quick look at one of the resurrection accounts in Scripture to see what they can teach us and what encouragement they provide. Along the way, you're invited to marvel, worship, pray and sing.

- ◇ The First and Second Death
- ◇ A Well-Witnessed Resurrection
- ◇ Does the Resurrection Matter?
- ◇ Wake Up and Live!
- ◇ Life Out of Dust
- ◇ Risen Indeed!

BEGINNING
JUNE 14TH

SERVING THE LORD IN

Belize

NEWS FROM GROTH FAMILY



April 2026



April in Belize

In April, the weather finally enters the dry season in full. Above, the retaining pond at camp is slowly evaporating away. The plants have taken this as their last chance to get a nice long drink before they rest for the season.

We enjoy the gifts that God gives us while they are here, including the beautiful flowers and the dry heat for this season, even while we eagerly await the return of the rain.

Despite the dry heat, we welcomed a team to the Cayo district. This team worked with children with disabilities in Valley of Peace. They offered encouragement and some simple exercises that the families could perform with the children. They also met with the children's Belizean care team to encourage and offer support to the local team of doctors

We were blessed to celebrate a birthday!

jason.groth@lcms.org

Medical Team Brings Healing



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.

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 Lac Brochet mission team is gearing up, praying up, and fired up for this year's trip, happening **August 6–16!** Four dedicated members of our congregation will be heading north to share the love of Christ through LAMP's incredible ministry.

All four team members have officially begun their child safety and cross-cultural training, and they're diving in with enthusiasm.

These sessions help prepare them to serve with a Christ first attitude, compassion, and cultural understanding.

We've also started bi-weekly meetings here at the church to review and finalize the Vacation Bible School curriculum. The team is on track to have everything wrapped up this week, which is a huge milestone.

If you've been following the news, you know oil prices have jumped, and unfortunately, flight prices have jumped right along with them. This has created an unexpected increase in our travel costs.

If you feel led to help offset this rise, we would be deeply grateful. Every gift, no matter the size, helps ensure our team can get to Lac Brochet and continue this life-changing ministry

You can give online through our usual channels or by writing a check to the LAMP Fund. Most importantly, please keep the team and the community of Lac Brochet in your prayers as we prepare for this journey.

This week we finalized the curriculum and will be taking students through the five C's of the bible, creation, corruption, confusion, Crist on the cross, and consummation. Over the next month we will be writing session plans going over academic, artistic, and physical activities that relate to the curriculum and the respective bible verses.

Theme: 1 Timothy 1:17

Creation: genesis 1:1

Cross: John 1:12

Corruption: psalm 14:3

Consummation: revelation 21:4

Confusion: genesis 11:9



Misericordia Activa

An Active Mercy: serving the church in Latin America

News from **Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez** serving the Lord and His mission.

Did you
know?

Men from 21 different countries in Latin America come to our seminary in the Dominican Republic. Many of their wives also begin deaconess studies. As a result, the deaconess students living in the Dominican Republic come from a number of countries in Latin America. Including:

- Dominican Republic
- Cuba
- Venezuela
- Boliva
- Panama
- Chile
- Mexico



Group photo from the deaconess class May 2026 Dominican Republic.

Teaching Deaconess Studies

May 1-4, 2026 Deaconess Caitlin taught an in-person four day intensive course on the Theology of the Word in the Dominican Republic. During this class, we got to study Law and Gospel in diaconal care. The women were greatly encouraged to be together and to learn more about our salvation in Jesus and how we can correctly proclaim this to others. One student told me "I'm like a sponge. It's so good, it's all so good. I'm just soaking it up." At the end of the class, she told me "I soaked it all up, I'm so bloated and full." What a gift to be full of God's Word and be able to take all of that joy and the message of salvation back to our families and friends.

Deaconess Students Getting Practical Experience

In March, April and May our deaconess students around the region took Deaconess Practice I, this course is the first of four classes that will help the students to get involved in local ministry and explore all the different ways that they can serve their neighbor as a deaconess. The four courses of the Practicum are designed to give the ladies experience in the three main areas of diaconal work: Christian Education, Spiritual Care and Works of Mercy.

For more news updates, stories and photos follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/RamirezMissions

Please contact me 313.914.9187, caitlin.ramirez@lcms.org

**"He is not here;
He has risen!"**

Luke 24:6



I, Caitlin, taught half of the course. Pastors from the seminary taught with me.

In addition to the lectures, the women had visitation practice, Sunday school planning and group work.



Sharing the Good News

Apart from these travels Deaconess Caitlin has been busy working with our translation project, VDMA Project, to get confessional Lutheran books translated and into the hands of our churches to help them proclaim the Gospel. Most recently VDMA Project has translated the book *Mission from the Cross* by Dr. Detlev Shultz. This book is a key piece on teaching Lutheran Missiology used at all our seminaries in the LCMS. This book will be the center of the Symposia at the seminary in the Dominican Republic at the end of the month.

Join us in prayer to the Lord

Pray by name for the deaconess students: Liana, Tamara, Belkis, Adis and Betty. These women are from a communist country and currently facing great difficulties which the devil would use to pull them away from the church.

Pray for the women taking the online Law and Gospel. Some currently only have a few hours of internet and electricity. We pray that they are able to continue to study God's Word even with this difficult situation.

We give thanks for the Deaconess intensive course in the Dominican Republic May 1-4, 2026.

We give thanks for the publication of Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics Materials in Spanish and now also in Portuguese to serve our sister church in Brazil.

Please pray for our family as we travel again to the Dominican Republic in June. We rejoice that the whole family will be going this time.

To support our work financially, send a tax-deductible gift marked "Ramirez Family" to:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 50134

Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod
PO Box 790089
St. Louis, MO 63179

You can also give online
www.lcms.org/ramirez



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

Summer is here. Time to get out the calendar and make sure to add these upcoming Fellowship events...

June 21st – Father’s Day. Time to celebrate Dad!

June 26-28 LWML District Conference in East Lansing

July 18th – Ramona Park Beach Bonfire with Women’s Fellowship

August 22nd – Men’s Newman’s Airport Fly-in Event and Breakfast

September 27th – St Michael Day Picnic at Schrier Park



DINNER & DISCUSSION

Join Solid Ground Campus Ministry for a free family style dinner followed by Bible study.

EVERY MONDAY IN JUNE 1720 W Michigan Ave,
(EXCEPT JUNE 8TH) Kalamazoo, MI 49006
6-8 PM

**FOR COLLEGE
AGED STUDENTS**



solidgrounds-zion@gmail.com



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*



JESUS LOVES KZOO SUNDAY
JUNE 14 6P

ONE WORSHIP

@ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

**FEATURING:
FIREFALL
WORSHIP
GROUP**

5841 EAST H AVE
KALAMAZOO 49048

CATALYST BURSTS

PRAYER & GRILL NIGHTS
Multiple Locations
Around Kalamazoo
starting at 5:30pm

**July 7-9
&
August 10-13**

JULY 7-9 & AUG 10-13

JOIN US FOR OUR SUMMER CATALYST BURSTS

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| July 7. Colonial Acres | July 8 -New Apostolic Church (off Milham in Portage) |
| July 9 - Salvation Army | Aug 10 - North Park Church (off Douglas in Kzoo) |
| Aug 11 - Urban Alliance | Aug 12 - New Village Park |
| Aug 13- MLK | |

Watch Facebook and our Website <https://jesusloveskzoo.org/> for updates!

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/>

APRIL FINANCIALS

6 Months

11/1/2025 - 4/30/2026

Church Revenue	\$ 461,333
School Revenue	\$ <u>594,472</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,055,805
Total Expenses	\$1, <u>034,624</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 21,180
Expense Budget	\$1,027,777
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 28,027
Working Cash Balance	\$ 311,498
Mortgage Balance	\$ 680,396

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$823,808
Building Contingency	\$ 41,814
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 30,000
HVAC	\$ (2,204)
Technology Refresh	\$ 2,410
Sunday School	\$ 5,018
Youth Donations	\$ 13,450
Youth Accounts	\$ 4,468
Good Samaritan	\$ 11,082
Memorials	\$ 14,462
Fellowship	\$ 6,179
Champion Church Network	\$ 401
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 10,575
Quilting	\$ 1,518
POBLO South Asia Ministry	\$ 5,596
Student Debt Fund	\$ 143
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 400
Luth Medical Emergency Fund	\$ 250
School Improvements	\$ 13,145
Tuition Assistance	\$ 23,603
School Music	\$ 1,350
School Sports	\$ 2,586
Flower Fund	\$ 2,258
Building Utilization	\$ -
LWML	\$ 2,618
Women's Fellowship	\$ 1,324
Faith Budget	\$ -

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Annual Avg. 2025 389

March '26 Avg. 430

April '26 Avg. 522

May '26 Avg. 351

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

Jennifer Stauffer
jstauffer@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

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

Kristi Rudowski, Chairman

BOARD OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

Vacant, Director
Jerry Kuss, Jeff Burnett, Heather Bigelow

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
Jan Chilcott, Jan Jett

USHERS

Mike Minger - Early Service
Jesse Hogue - Late Service

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS

Pastor & Dana Naumann, Lynda Rea, Kathy Zakarias

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Lane Bertrand, Pam Sward, Karen Taylor
Zachary Button, Ann Olson
Bill Semrau, Tami White, Jeannette Marshall

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

LIFE SKILLS CLASSES

Mary Wright

VBS

Jenny Teague

BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Diane Gibson, Director
Vacant, Assistant Director

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP / LWML

Kathy Zakarias

CARING CONNECTIONS

Kathy Taylor

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

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