



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

JULY 2026 Volume 65, Number 7



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

“The Good Ol’ U.S. of A.”

About five years ago,
a country western artist sang. . .

*“This free air I breathe, it's because of the braves,
A lotta good men have died so we can keep it that
way.
It's American dreams, it's American pride
To know my family is safe when we lay down at
night.
That's why I stand, put my hand on my heart
When old glory waves and our anthem starts.
So, I'm blessed to live here in this place
The good ol' U.S. of A.”*

That's an old expression, “the good ol’ U.S. of A,” but how old is our country, really, especially in comparison to other countries? When we consider countries like Great Britain, we can surely seem like a baby. But now that our nation is celebrating its 250th birthday, we're kind of getting up there. British military commander and historian Sir John Bagot Glubb in his essay entitled, *“The Fate of Empires,”* analyzed eleven major empires across 3,000 years of history and proposed that they typically last about 250 years. He argued that empires progress through predictable stages, namely, the age of Pioneers, Conquest, Commerce, Affluence, Intellect, and finally, Decadence. On our 250th birthday that's pretty sobering stuff for us to consider. Do we take “the good ol’ U.S. of A.” for granted and just assume because we've been around for so long that we'll just keep on going indefinitely?

As we reflect back upon the prosperity and relative peace that our country has enjoyed throughout its quarter millennium of history, we could be complacent about it and presume upon the future. But ideally we see it as a divine blessing and as a sacred stewardship. While we Americans are quick to point out that the rights and freedoms that we enjoy are given to us by God and not by government, we should have learned from our own history that bad government can infringe upon those God-given rights and freedoms. This is why it is always our responsibility as good citizens of this good nation to keep our government behaving properly. The USA is, after all, as Abraham Lincoln

famously put it, a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Consequently, “we the people” have the primary responsibility of protecting and preserving what it has always meant to be an American.

If indeed our American rights and freedoms are God-given, then those same rights and freedoms should also be God-pleasing. But if we deify the raw idea of “Freedom” and make an idol out of it, then we would champion and defend most adamantly our freedom to do whatever we want to do regardless of what God thinks of it (which, frankly, is what many Americans are doing these days). But is that really freedom? The Bible would suggest that freely choosing to live contrary to God's moral standards which He has set forth in the ten Commandments is not really freedom at all, but rather slavery to sin (see Romans 7:14).

God's Law is good, and He intended it to be for our good such that following it results in freedom. This is why James writes of “the law that gives freedom” (James 1:25; 2:12). The problem is, however, because of our sinful human nature we are unable to keep God's Law and are sadly under the bondage of sin. For this very reason God sent His Son into the world. Jesus kept the Law perfectly for us, and suffered and died the death penalty that our Law breaking deserves. Now that He is risen from the dead, as the song puts it, “sin's curse has lost its grip on me.” With faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we are free from sin's deadly consequences and free to respond to God's grace with a life of joyful obedience to Him. As Jesus put it, “Everyone who sins is a slave of sin... but... if the Son sets you free, you are truly free” (John 8:34-36). May we who are “truly free” in Jesus, live responsibly with our American freedom so the “good ol’ U.S. of A.” might long endure.



WE ARE CALLED

to make disciples of *Jesus*

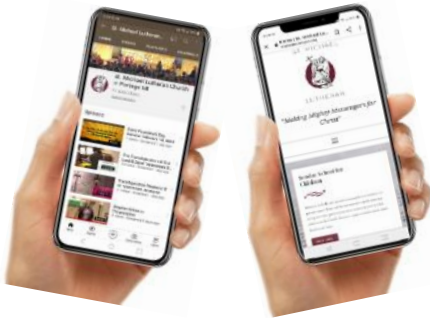
The vision of St. Michael Lutheran is to be a growing congregation within our local community that is *"Making Mighty Messengers for Christ"* by helping people:

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



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.



You Are Invited To Celebrate!

Sunday, July 26

Seventh grade SMLS teacher, Julie Prentice, has announced that she would retire at the end of this school year and is getting married in August!

Ms. Prentice has been teaching various grade levels at St. Michael for 14 years (28 years in education total) and will certainly be missed. Please join us in congratulating and praying for God's richest blessings to her as she begins a new chapter in her life.

Join us at 9:45AM in the Gym on Sunday, July 26 between worship services, as we celebrate Julie and honor her with a reception.

High Quality – Christ Centered

National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) serves as the accrediting body for Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod schools across the United States and around the world. Accreditation is based upon a school's compliance with national standards for Lutheran schools that reflect the essential qualities expected of Lutheran schools and other quality educational programs.

In April of 2022, St. Michael Lutheran School went through National Lutheran School Accreditation and successfully achieved full accreditation for a second time. Accreditation must be renewed every 5 years. NLSA requires a rigorous self-study to evaluate the actual practices related to essential indicators of school quality. These are evaluated and measured in eight specific standard areas. In order to become accredited with NLSA, a school must comply fully with over 30 required indicators of success. The self-study phase of the accreditation process begins in earnest in September with a scheduled visit by a validation team in April of 2027. This third accreditation will include grades preschool through 8.

This process insures continuous improvement and accountability to district accreditation commissions. Upon conclusion of a self-study, an NLSA visiting team validates that the self-study prepared by the school accurately reflects the actual practices that are present in the school's programs. In a formal, two-day visit, the team examines evidence, interviews school stakeholders, visits classrooms and observes overall school practices.

National Lutheran School Accreditation encourages, assists, and recognizes schools that provide quality Christian education and engage in continuous improvement. I am grateful to the staff for their readiness to take on this challenge every 5 years and for all of their hard work and time invested in this process, which confirms that the educational programs at St. Michael are both high quality and Christ-centered. St. Michael Lutheran Church can be proud of their educational ministries knowing that they meet the rigorous standards established by NLSA and exceed those standards established by the Michigan Department of Education.

Greg Johnson
Principal



TUITION ASSISTANCE CONTRIBUTIONS NEED FOR 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Each school year almost \$50,000 dollars is needed as support to qualifying families seeking tuition assistance. It is important to keep tuition assistance fully funded. Due to recent economic challenges and significant increases in school enrollment, the tuition assistance fund is sorely in need of dollars for the 2026-2027 school year. All donations are tax deductible and because our school is now fully accredited, participating employers may also match funds that are given toward this program. Please check with your employer to see if they participate in such a program.

Helping families with tuition costs by way of the tuition assistance fund is a critical component to the school ministry at St. Michael. While our tuition is one of the most affordable among area private schools, it can still be a challenge for some families, especially if they have multiple children or only one income. The availability of tuition assistance to qualifying families is often the only reason they can attend our school.

I would like to challenge you to consider giving a tax deductible gift to the tuition assistance fund, participate in the golf outing, or consider sponsoring a child for the coming school year. It is an investment in ministry and mission that touches the lives of numerous children each school year.

In Christ,

Greg Johnson, Principal

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026

All Proceeds Support The Tuition-Assistance Fund

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration begins**
- 8-9:00 a.m. Driving Range Warm-Up
- 2:00 p.m. **Awards and Prizes, Luncheon** (with cash bar)



EVENT PRIZES

- Longest Drive (Men/Women)
- Closest to Pin (Men or Women)
- Putting Contest (3 tries for \$5)
- Mulligans for Sale (\$5 each)

**Pine View Golf Club**
52065 Pulver Road, Three Rivers, MI

FOUR-PERSON SCRAMBLE
MEN AND/OR WOMEN
9:00 AM SHOTGUN START
\$100 per person
Registration Deadline: **AUGUST 10**

Experience Michigan golf at its finest! Join us for a beautiful round featuring challenging holes and picturesque scenery. The course is lined with trees and gently rolling, plays up to 6409 yards, par 72 with a slope of 121.

Can't golf?
THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR YOU TO BE INVOLVED AND SUPPORTIVE! JOIN US AS A SPONSOR, DONATE A PRIZE, SPONSOR A GOLFER OR BE A VOLUNTEER !

REGISTER ONLINE AT: [MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG/GOLF-OUTING/](https://mightymessengers.org/golf-outing/)

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

"DO I HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH?"

It is a question that comes up from time to time, and not just from children or teenagers. Adults ask it too, though usually in different words.

"Does it really matter if I miss a few Sundays?" "I can worship God anywhere, can't I?"

"Is church attendance really that important?"

I understand where those questions come from. Life is busy. Sundays seem to fill up faster than ever. There are family commitments, travel, projects around the house, sports schedules, work obligations, and sometimes plain old exhaustion. Most of us know what it feels like to look at a Sunday morning and think, "It would be easier just to stay home." (even including pastors at times) But I wonder if "Do I have to?" is the wrong place to start.

The Christian life is rarely at its best when we are asking for the minimum requirement. Healthy relationships do not work that way. A husband who asks, "How little time do I have to spend with my wife?" is already asking the wrong question. The issue is not obligation, but relationship. It is not about checking a box. It is about remaining connected to someone you love. The same is true when it comes to worship.

Yes, God does command His people to gather around His Word. The Third Commandment still matters. Gathering with God's people is not something Christians are free to dismiss as unnecessary. But the deeper reason Christians gather is not because God is keeping attendance records. We gather because God has promised to meet us there.

Every week we live in a world that pulls us in a hundred different directions. We carry worries about our families, our jobs, our health, our future. We battle temptation. We struggle with guilt. We grow weary. We forget. And every week God calls us back. Back to hear once again that our sins are forgiven because of Jesus. Back to hear His promises spoken into our ears. Back to receive His gifts. Back to the body and blood of Christ given and shed for us.

One of the beautiful truths of Lutheran worship is that the focus is not first on what we are doing for God, but on what God is doing for us. Before we sing, pray, give, or serve, He serves us. He forgives. He speaks. He strengthens. He comforts. That changes the conversation.

The question is no longer, "Do I have to go to church?" The question becomes, "Why would I want to stay away?" If someone offered a hungry person a meal every week, we would not ask why they kept coming back. If a doctor had medicine that brought healing and life, we would not be surprised that people returned again and again.

In worship, Christ gives something even greater. He gives Himself. There is another reason worship matters too. We do not come to church only for ourselves. Your presence encourages others more than you probably realize.

When we gather, we confess the faith together. We pray together. We sing together. We remind one another that none of us is walking through this life alone. There is something powerful about looking around the sanctuary and seeing fellow Christians standing beside you, hearing the same promises, singing the same hymns, receiving the same gifts. The Church is a family, and families need one another. So, do you have to go to church?

If by that question we mean, "Do I have to go in order to earn God's love?" the answer is no. Christ has already won God's favor for you through His death and resurrection.

But if the question is, "Do I need what God gives there?" then the answer is a joyful yes.

Because every Sunday, your Savior gathers you not to burden you with another obligation, but to give you exactly what you need most: His forgiveness, His presence, His promises, and His peace. That's not merely a duty, that's a beautiful gift.

Pastor Maske



Jesus Gives You Rest

July 5, 2026 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Our bodies need rest. Of greater importance is rest for our souls. Only one Person can give this, who says to us, “Come to Me, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Sermon Text: Matthew 11:28-30

Readings: Psalm 145:1-9; Zechariah 9:9-10; Matthew 11:28-30

Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Sanctuary Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Indiana LWML District Choir

Featured Art and Architecture: Welcome Home Soldier Monument, Albion, Iowa

Now What?

July 12, 2026 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

You have heard — or read — God’s Word. Now what? The question isn’t “How do we make the Word more life changing?” Instead, how does this life-changing Word shape and guide our lives as we live in response to it?

Sermon Text: Matthew 13:23

Readings: Psalm 65:9-13; Isaiah 55:10-13; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Featured Choirs: Indiana LWML District Choir

Featured Art and Architecture: St. John Lutheran Church, Sherwood, Ohio

Weeds Among Wheat

July 19, 2026 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Shayne Jonker

Christians must always contend with false teaching and false Christians. Jesus said so. There is nothing wrong with the good seed that Christ sows. The pure Gospel rightly proclaimed produces faithful Christians, but the devil deliberately sows bad seed where the good seed has been sown.

Sermon Text: Matthew 13:24-25

Readings: Psalm 119:57-64, 89; Isaiah 44:6-8; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Sanctuary Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul’s Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul Preble Adult Choir, Decatur, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Zion (Cicero) Lutheran Church, Edgerton, Ohio

Priorities

July 26, 2026 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Paul Shoemaker

What is your priority in life? Jesus’ priority was to do the will of His Father. That means that His priority was you. His priority was to pay in full the penalty of your sins so you could be in heaven forever.

Sermon Text: Matthew 13:44-52

Readings: Psalm 125; Romans 8:28-39; Matthew 13:44-52

Featured Choir: Valley Lutheran High School Golden Voice Choir, Saginaw, Mich.

Featured Art and Architecture: Lake George Lutheran Chapel, Fremont, Ind.



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:

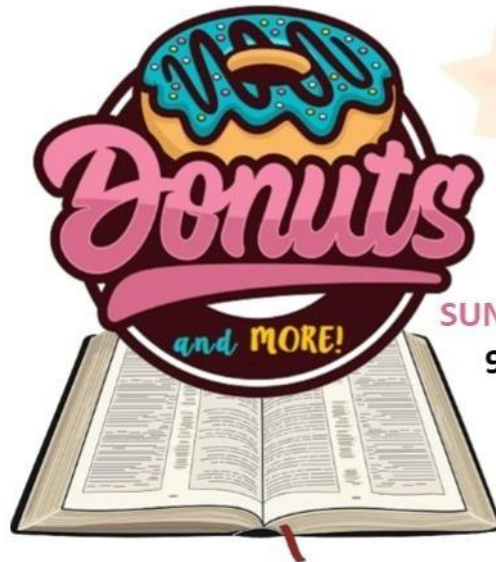
Jan Goertz Allan, Sally Beck, Judy Chumas, Shirley Cosgrove, Ginny Evans, Bill & Sharon Frailing, Sylvia German, Audrey Glover, Virgil Harrison, Harold & Carol Karnes, Bernie Kubacki, Sandy & Joe Maya, Nancy Miller, Jim & Ardean Monck, Joan Pfister, Wilma Ritchie, Marilyn Sible, Ernie & Judi VanOrman,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

CHRIST
IS RISEN
1 CORINTHIANS 15
INDEED

Alle
lu
a

CHRIST IS RISEN: 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.



UPCOMING
Events

Date

Sunday July 5

Thurs. July 9

Sunday July 12

Mon-Friday 13-17th

Sun. July 19

Wed. July 23

Sun. July 26

July 28-30th

Time & What

9:45am – Coffee Club

No Evening group - Holiday weekend

Jesus Loves Kzoo

9:45am Bible Study

9am-noon VBS

9:45am Bible Study

Hang Out Days SMLS

9:45am Bible Study

5pm - Youth Group

Middle School 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

Is your prayer life boring? Do you say the same old things about the same old things? Do you keep a list of things to pray about and just go over it every time you pray?

We can be talking to the most fascinating Person in the universe about the most important things in our lives and yet, if we are repeating the same things every time, we do get bored.

An American theologian recently said, "If I try to pray for people or events without having the word in front of me guiding my prayers, then several negative things happen. One is that I tend to be very repetitive I just pray the same things all the time. Another negative thing is that my mind tends to wander."

I have noticed that when I pray, I cannot close my eyes, or my mind will wander and it is difficult to concentrate on what I really want to pray about. Once I realized this, I knew I needed to look at what I was doing wrong.

In reading "Praying the Bible" by Donald Whitney, I discovered a new method for prayer and during our recent vigil when we were praying for God's choice in providing us with a new pastor, I was able to try it out and was amazed at what a difference it made in my personal prayer life.

In our Prayer meetings on Tuesday afternoons, we are praying the 'ACTS' method. That means: Adoration – Confession – Thanksgiving – Supplication. Using this method, we read a passage from the Bible verse about each step of the ACTS guide. This helps you concentrate on each important part about praising and trusting God.

This method has led me to consider reading and praying the Psalms or the Lords Prayer or the Twenty-Third Psalm. Each of these prayers will help guide through your daily prayer life and enhance it.

Blessings,

Virginia Hetrick – Prayer Coordinator



"Exploring Our Faith"

**NEW CLASSES
BEGIN SEPTEMBER 13!!**

What makes Saint Michael Lutheran Church special?

How do we get involved in what God is doing among us?

"Exploring Our Faith" Is taught on Sunday mornings during the same time as the children's Sunday School and other Adult Bible Classes, 9:45 am to 10:45 am.

In this course, you will find that our Lutheran faith is Bible based, and you will get to know some of the existing ministry leaders in our congregation. It will help prepare you to be a more faithful follower of our Lord Jesus Christ, and an active communicant member of St. Michael Lutheran Church and School.



LINE UP

Revive Fest is an uplifting, family-friendly Christian music festival in rural southwest Michigan.

FRIDAY



SATURDAY



*You who seek
God, let your
hearts revive!
Psalm 69:32*



Venue:
En Gedi Resort
30321 Covey Road
Leonidas, MI 49066

Experience two days of inspiring performances by nationally known Christian artists. Enjoy fun activities and visit various food vendors. Camping is also an option for those who want to dive even deeper into the festival experience!

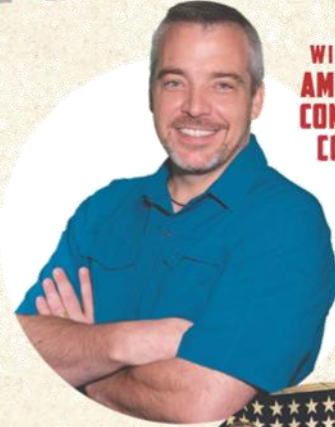
Organizers: creatorspraiseministries.org

GET TICKETS AND DETAILS AT: myrevivefest.com



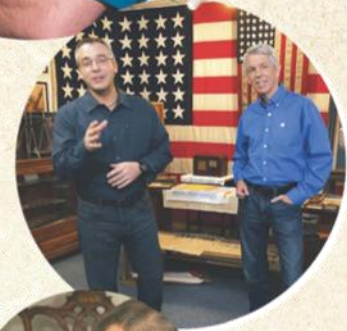
CONSTITUTION ALIVE!

Join our local Constitution Host and others from your community as we watch, study, & discuss this powerful video series with Rick Green & David Barton.



WITH
AMERICA'S
CONSTITUTION
COACH
RICK GREEN

- ★ Know your Rights!
- ★ Gain more Constitutional Knowledge than 99% of Americans!
- ★ Learn Tangible Action Steps for Preserving Liberty!
- ★ Entertaining! Inspiring! Educational!
- ★ Learn the Biblical, Historical, and Constitutional Foundation of Freedom!



This is a FREE weekly course
on Wednesdays
7/22 - 8/26
6:30 pm in the Sanctuary



<https://www.patriotacademy.com/coach/register/11477>

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

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 AS WE LOVE ON KALAMAZOO AND PORTAGE

St. Michael volunteers are assisting with the grill night on JULY 8

at New Apostolic Church (3600 W Milham Ave)

St. Michael Youth will go on JULY 9

to the grill night at the SALVATION ARMY



COLLEGE AGED OR ENROLLED IN COLLEGE

Every Monday evening from 6-8pm we gather those who are college aged or enrolled in college (Master's students or non-traditional aged students are welcome too!) for a delicious dinner and a discussion centered around God's Word. We regularly have 8-10 students from a number of different colleges or career paths! Please join us if you fall into this category!

Jump onto our socials for the most accurate info!

<https://linktr.ee/solidgrounds.wmu>



YOUNG ADULTS

Anyone aged 22-39 (roughly) can join us for our Young Adult nights! We meet once a month for social time and Bible discussion. Some months we'll meet for a service project as well. To receive information on when we meet, reach out to Aaron at 269-271-2848 or dcegrube21@gmail.com.



Starting Our

SUMMER CATALYST BURST OUTREACH **JULY 7TH *thru* END OF AUGUST**

At all our catalyst burst community outreach events
JLK will be bringing groceries to families who are struggling.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Because of our resources and unity with other local organizations,
JLK can provide food boxes for the week for:

Family of 3 - \$10 (\$40/mth)

Family of 5 - \$15 (\$60/mth)

Can you feed 5 families a month...10 families a month?

One 3-person family for 1 month	\$40
One 5-person family for 2 months	\$120
Five 3-person families for 2 months	\$400
Five 5-person families for 2 months	\$600
Ten 5-person families for 2 months	\$1200



Scan barcode to donate on our website.

When checking out on Billing Details screen, please write
"Feed a Family" in the Additional Information/Order Notes.



Scan barcode to see Catalyst dates & information

100% of all monies collected go directly to purchase food for the
families in need. We need volunteer help for distribution as well!

Have you ever considered why our church has a VBS? Often, a church's primary goal is to attract new families to the church through VBS. There's nothing wrong with that goal, but we challenge you to take our goals a little . . . broader.

If we are doing a five-day VBS, we have five days to pour into these kids. **That's roughly 15 hours of discipleship opportunities.** Now, think about those 15 VBS discipleship hours compared to Sundays. On average, we might have about 15 children for two to three hours a month. That's for a regular attendee, and honestly, it is a generous statistic. If we do the math, VBS is the equivalent of five to six months' worth of Sundays.

The discipleship opportunities of VBS are huge! We have 15 hours to pour into boys and girls and to disciple them. **There's not a minute to waste!**

Today's kids are growing up in an anti-God culture. Everything from the shows they

watch, to the music they listen to, to the voices speaking into them are telling them that God's Word isn't true.

"There is no God. Life doesn't matter. You weren't created on purpose. You can be whoever you want. Love is love. Do what you want. There is no right or wrong. You're not enough. No one loves you."

Take a look at some of the shows, books, and music targeting our kids. These messages ring loud and clear. In a childhood filled with drag queen story hours and science promoted as religion, we have 15 hours this summer to speak God's truth into boys and girls.

VBS gives us five days—which translates to 15 hours or 900 minutes—to speak God's truth into these boys and girls.

We plan to use each and every one! ***Won't you join us??***

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO GET REGISTERED!!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

July 13-17

9AM-Noon

Children 4 years - 5th Grade
Many Volunteers Are Needed

Use the QR Code or go to:
mightymessengers.org/vbs



HOW CAN I HELP WITH VBS, IF I CANNOT VOLUNTEER ONSITE?

We're using SignUp an online tool to organize our upcoming VBS supply needs.

- 1) Click this link or use the QR code to see our SignUp
<https://signup.com/go/iwdBvUX>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the item(s) you like.
- 3) After you do your shopping or find your items at home, please drop them off at the Church Office entrance and we will ensure things get checked off the list.



DO YOU HAVE MORE LOVE TO SHARE?? SUPPORT OUR MISSION PROJECT!!

Operation Kid-to-Kid gives kids an opportunity to share God's love with children in need by meeting the real, tangible needs of others.

This year, we will be partnering with World Vision to provide Blankets and warm clothes for children in North America.



Every 5 dollars donated provides up to \$70 in brand new clothing and blankets.

◇ that's only a little bit more than \$2.50 per VBS participant.

We will also be collecting lots of NEW warm hats, gloves, mittens, scarves for our neighborhood friends at the Gospel Ministries.

Help cover our Missions Tree with colorful warm gear for kids or adults.

Will you help us reach our goal?



Our goal
is to
raise
\$500



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



Women of the church recently gathered in fellowship at Lakeview Park. It was a beautiful evening with some great conversation, snacks and views.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Join us at 8:00 PM on Saturday, July 18

Roast marshmallows and enjoy the summer night at the **Ramona Beach Bonfire**. Located at **Ramona Park Beach** (8600 South Sprinkle Road). This free, family-friendly event features a beach bonfire, live music, and complimentary s'mores making supplies. Bring a chair or blanket.



SAVE THE DATE of August 23rd and watch for the details for the next fun summer activity to share with friends!

*What do you give
to guests on
Father's Day,
that you know
they will enjoy?*

BACON,
and more bacon!

Thank you, Diane
and all her helpers.



SMLS
GIRLS OF PRAISE
DANCE



SUMMER CAMP

*Join Us for 3 Days of Fun,
Worship Dancing and Connection!*

July 28-30th | Time: 9:00 AM – Noon

Location: St. Michael Lutheran School Gym

Incoming 3rd Grade – 8th Grade Girls.

What to Expect:

- Learn Dance/Stunt Technique (Leaps, Turns, Beginner Stunting)
- Learn a Fun Worship Dance and Perform with a Small Group
- Groups Discussions/Ideas on Worship Dancing
- Last Day-Invite your Family & Friends (11am-Noon)

Contact: Cortney Marks | cort.marks@gmail.com

Admission is

\$25.00

per Girl

(Family Discount of \$5.00)

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



Your mites make a difference!

Forged by Fire -

Gulf Coast Region - \$85,000

Forged by Fire Services strives to actively make known the love of Jesus Christ through its actions and words by providing warm meals, bottled water, and spiritual care to people in times of need following a disaster or economic downturn. They pray with those in need and offer resources such as devotionals and Bibles.

This grant will allow the purchase of a mobile, self-contained kitchen trailer unit to provide meals in communities affected by disaster. Over 130,000 meals have been served in the Gulf Coast region. The mobile kitchen will benefit smaller communities in need that are often overlooked by larger organizations. When serving, Forged by Fire Services strives to connect local LCMS congregations within the communities and shares the mercy and grace of Christ, one plate of food at a time.

REMEMBER: Mite Box Collections are any time, but we are especially trying to do this the first weekend of the month. You can pickup a little box in the Communication Center and return it there. Or bring it into the Church Office.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

**STORES WILL HAVE BARGAINS IN THE COMING WEEKS...
IF YOU ARE INCLINED TO HELP WITH OUR SCHOOL SUPPLY
COLLECTION, WE WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

WHAT GOES IN TO THE KITS:

FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper; no loose leaf paper

ONE ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

ONE pencil sharpener

ONE pair of blunt scissors

FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils

FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)

ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons

ONE 2 ½" eraser



LEAVE ITEMS IN THE WOODEN CHEST IN THE COMMUNICATION CENTER.

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/>

MAY FINANCIALS

7 Months

11/1/2025 - 5/31/2026

Church Revenue	\$ 544,387
School Revenue	\$ <u>834,288</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,378,675
Total Expenses	\$1, <u>236,323</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 142,352
Expense Budget	\$1,303,575
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 75,100
Working Cash Balance	\$ 44,115
Mortgage Balance	\$ 660,396

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$877,465
Building Contingency	\$ 45,314
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 30,000
HVAC	\$ (2,204)
Technology Refresh	\$ 2,618
Sunday School	\$ 5,456
Youth Donations	\$ 10,827
Youth Accounts	\$ 7,168
Good Samaritan	\$ 10,108
Memorials	\$ 14,462
Fellowship	\$ 6,179
Champion Church Network	\$ 401
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 10,695
Quilting	\$ 1,518
POBLO South Asia Ministry	\$ 5,596
Student Debt Fund	\$ 143
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 400
Luth Medical Emergency Fund	\$ 250
School Improvements	\$ 13,480
Tuition Assistance	\$ 21,397
School Music	\$ 1,440
School Sports	\$ 2,331
Flower Fund	\$ 1,682
Building Utilization	\$ (2,494)
LWML	\$ 2,788
Women's Fellowship	\$ 1,306
Faith Budget	\$ -

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Annual Avg. 2025 389

April '26 Avg. 522

May '26 Avg. 351

June '26 Avg. 324

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

Vacant

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 Rudowske

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