THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2026 Volume 65, Number 11



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

"WE GATHER TOGETHER"

I've got a song stuck in my head today, which is not a usual thing. What is unusual, however, is that the song is from my years at Crestview Elementary School in Miami in the early 1960s. The song is entitled "Sing Your Way Home" and it goes like this. . .

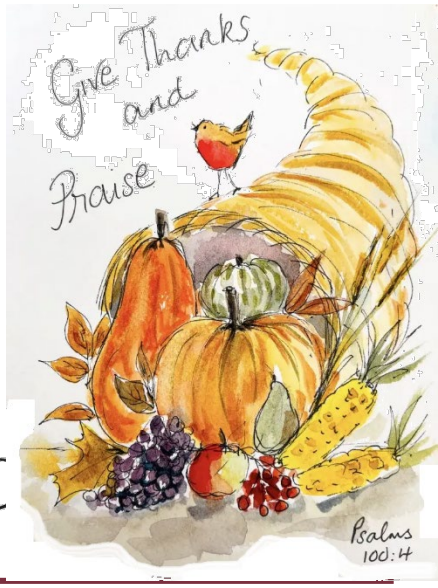
> *Sing your way home at the close of the day.*
> *Sing your way home, drive the shadows away.*
> *Smile all the while for wherever you go*
> *It will lighten your load, it will brighten your road*
> *If you sing your way home.*

Back in those days we had school assemblies where we would all get together to sing. It wasn't a Christian school, so it wasn't a chapel service, but in hindsight it was a little bit like it. I also remember in those days that the school principal would get on the PA system in the morning and tell us a story and one of her favorites was an old African American poem about creation in which God declared that He was lonely and so He determined "to make me a man." It wasn't great theology, but it did reflect a biblical world view, and she also would use the occasion to lead us in saying the Lord's Prayer. Prayer in school had actually been banned in 1962, but I think this principal chose to ignore that and keep it going a little bit longer.

I was laying in bed the other night unable to sleep and rather than counting sheep, I tried to recall how old I was in each grade of elementary school. Turns out doing math in your head is not that relaxing of an activity. But in the process I was recalling the names of some of my teachers and classmates, including the first girl I had a crush on when I was in third grade. I was remembering cub scouts and how the only way I was allowed to be one was if my mom agreed to be a den mother, which she did. I was remembering my dad showing me how to throw a football, and ride a bike. I was remembering singing my way home from school and stopping at the ice cream truck for a creamsicle. I was remembering Vacation Bible Schools at Trinity Lutheran Church in Carol City, Florida and those little craft kits that I enjoyed so much. I was remembering playing Optimist Club football with the 75 pounders when I was about 9 years old. And sure enough all this childhood reminiscing did relax me to the point where I could fall asleep.

I mention all this, not merely as a remedy for insomnia, but as a reminder of just how formative our childhood years are. As we're about to enter into the "holiday season," think about the things you enjoyed as a kid and try to pass some of that on to your children or grandchildren. Go ahead and draw a picture of a turkey by tracing your hand with a crayon. Go ahead and make cut-out cookies and frost them, even if the kids mix all the colors together to make army green. Go ahead and find the wishbone in the turkey and crack it with someone you love. Go ahead and serve that green bean casserole and the cranberry sauce shaped like the can. And when you're all sitting around the Thanksgiving table, even though it's clichéd, go ahead and ask everyone to say what they're thankful for. Better yet, have everyone direct their thanksgiving to God in a little made-up prayer. These, and countless other things, are the memory makers of childhood that will last them a lifetime.

And while you're at it, be sure to take the family to church, even on Thanksgiving Eve. Sit together in the pew and sing together, "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessings," and "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come." Remember before the Lord the countless things that you're grateful for, and direct your gratitude to God, who is the giver of every good gift (James 1:17).
Most of all, thank God for Jesus, whose saving work makes possible gathering together for the feast that has no end.



Paul T. Kuhlmann

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.

"Stewards Engaged in God's Work"

In Our Churches





In Our Homes

In Our Neighborhoods





In Our Places of Work

In Our Communities





In Our World

"For we are God's fellow workers" 1 Corinthians 3:9



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



"CALM IS CONTAGIOUS"

Things in the world feel unsettled right now, and there is plenty to worry about. It doesn't take much to get people worked up. But when one person stays calm, the people around them tend to settle down too. Calm really is contagious.

Think of Jesus in the boat with His disciples when a terrible storm came up. Waves were breaking over the sides, and the disciples were afraid for their lives. Jesus was asleep. They woke Him and asked whether He cared that they were about to die. He spoke to the wind and the waves, and everything went still. What looked completely out of control to the disciples was never out of His hands.

Jesus knew suffering too. He felt sorrow and pain, and He gave His life for us on the cross. Through all of it, He trusted His Father, and on the third day His Father raised Him from the dead. Nothing we face is bigger than that.

As baptized children of God, we belong to Jesus, and that gives us someone to bring our worries to. It doesn't mean we won't have difficult days, but we don't face them alone. In Baptism God put His name on us, and He doesn't take it back.

That's one reason worship matters. We come to church with all kinds of things on our minds, and for a little while we get to set them down. We hear God's Word, receive His forgiveness, and are reminded of His love for us. He gives us what we need to face what's ahead. It's good to be reminded that we aren't holding the world together.

That peace can go home with us and show in how we treat people during the week. A patient word or a gentle answer can do more than we realize. We don't have to get pulled into every argument or worry that comes along.

And maybe the way we handle the troubles of life will lead someone to ask about the peace we have in Jesus, and we can tell them where it comes from.

Pastor Maske

The Saint in the Sycamore

November 1, 2026 – All Saints' Day – Rev. Daniel Eggold – Guest Pastor

Zacchaeus, the wealthy tax collector, climbed a sycamore tree just hoping to catch a glimpse of Jesus. But Jesus saw him first — calling him down, staying at his house, and bringing salvation to a sinner. On this All Saints' Day, rejoice that Jesus spots you too, wherever you are, and makes sinners His saints.

Sermon Text: Luke 19:1-10

Readings: Psalm 130; Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Luke 19:1-10

Featured Choirs: St. Peter's Adult Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Holy Cross Treble Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

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

Does Jesus Know You?

November 8, 2026 – Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Rev. Scott Zeckzer

Jesus is coming. Are you ready for His coming again? While it is important to know Jesus, it is more important that Jesus knows you.

Sermon Text: Matthew 25:13

Readings: Psalm 70:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Featured Choirs: Zion Lutheran School, Decatur, Ind.; Holy Cross Sanctuary Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Wellspring Lutheran Services, Monroe, Mich.

The Breastplate and Helmet

November 15, 2026 – Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Our spiritual enemies - the devil, the unbelieving world, and our own sinful nature - are constantly trying to put fear, worry, discouragement, and sinful anger into our hearts, and falsehood and deception into our minds. Thus, the apostle Paul urges us to put on the breastplate and helmet - equipment from God. With these we will be protected from our enemies.

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:8

Readings: Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Featured Choir: St. John Lutheran School, Plymouth, Wis.

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

We Are What We See!

November 22, 2026 – Last Sunday of the Church Year – Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

What are your eyes fixed upon? In Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats, two groups stand before the king equally surprised; yet their lives were shaped by entirely different visions. Discover how focusing on yourself blinds you to Christ, while focusing on Jesus opens your eyes to the people and needs He places before you. Truly, we are what we see!

Sermon Text: Matthew 25:37, 44

Readings: Psalm 95:1-7a; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Matthew 25:31-46

Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Angelis Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Centralia, Ill.

Featured Art and Architecture: Christ Our King Lutheran Church, Saline, Mich.

Come Lord, Come

November 29, 2026 – First Sunday in Advent – Rev. Scott Zeckzer

Are you ready for the Lord's coming? He is coming on the Last Day in power and might, but until that time, He comes in humbleness and mercy.

Sermon Text: Isaiah 64:1

Readings: Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 11:1-10

Featured Choirs: St. Peter's Adult Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Michael Adult Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul's Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Emanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, Ind.

WORSHIP ANEW

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 ourwebsite,apps, andstreaming on Roku, AppleTV, Google TV, Amazon Firestick, andYouTube.

We remember to pray for Homebound friends:

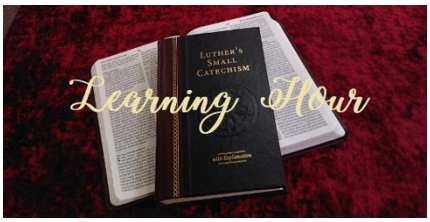
Jan Goertz Allan, Sandra Allan, Judy Chumas, Shirley Cosgrove, Gay Fleming, Bill & Sharon Frailing, Sylvia German, Audrey Glover, Virgil Harrison, Harold & Carol Karnes, Bernie Kubacki, Mick Macholz, Sandy & Joe Maya, Nancy Miller, Jim Monck, Bruno & Renate Moneta, Rika Noggle, Joan Pfister, Wilma Ritchie, Marilyn Sible, Ernie & Judi VanOrman, Sharon White

DISCIPLESHIP

Christian education is vital to our Spiritual health and growth.

*We value **discipleship** through the Christian education of children and adults of all ages as essential and vital to our spiritual health and growth. While we highly value people of every age, we are especially excited about our population of young families, many of whom come into our congregation through our Christian education programs for children.*

Luke 18:15-17



9:45 AM-10:45 AM

Your opportunity to spend 1 hour with others, hearing and discerning God's Word!

NEW COURSE Beginning November 1st

Ethics and the Christian Life, by Dr. Joel Biermann. In this seven-week course provided by Lutheran Institute of Theology (LIT), we will explore key ethical frameworks, the Lutheran approach to law and gospel, the importance of creation and vocation, and the Spirit's work of sanctification. Through this course, we will be reminded that ethics is not a burden but a joyful calling – the shape of faith active in love!

***As an added benefit, this subscription purchased for the congregation, allows any of our church members to create an account and access the materials. If you are interested, follow the instructions below. We ask that you not share this code with those outside our congregation, so that access remains available for those it is intended to serve.*

Go to https://lutheraninstitute.org/#/register

· Fill out the username, email, and password fields with your information.

· In the "Enter code" box, enter our congregation's code: **StMichael 61** - *If done correctly it should not ask for a credit card.*

· Click the "Create Account" button; your membership will be active immediately.

FAMILY

ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

DURING THE LEARNING HOUR IN ALLAN HALL

THIS EVENT IS FOR ALL AGES AND IS SPONSORED BY THE BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

PLEASE JOIN US!



MAKE A FAITH RESOURCE FOR YOUR HOME

"JESUS IS COMING: THE ADVERBS OF ADVENT"

Join us on Wednesdays at 5PM

December 2, 9, 16

for a meal & fellowship

Advent Worship at 6:30PM



11/28-29 - First Sunday in Advent:
"Jesus Is Coming Suddenly" (Mark 13:36)

12/2 – 1st Midweek Advent Service:
"Jesus is Coming Humbly" (Matthew 11:28-30)

12/5-6 - Second Sunday in Advent:
"Jesus is Coming Mightily" (Mark 1:7)

12/9 – 2nd Midweek Advent Service:
"Jesus is Coming Quickly" (Revelation 3:11)

12/12-13 - Third Sunday in Advent:
"Jesus is Coming Faithfully" (Isaiah 61:8)

12/16 – 3rd Midweek Advent Service:
"Jesus is Coming Surely" (Habakkuk 2:3)

12/19-20 - Fourth Sunday Advent:
"Jesus is Coming Mysteriously" (Romans 16:25)

12/6 Women's Advent by Candlelight Dinner

12/10 SMLS Kindergarten-3rd Concert – 1PM & 6:30PM

12/11 Christ For Kids/Preschool Concert – 1PM & 6PM



For the past 19 years *(since 2007)* St. Michael has been blessing children near and far through the filling of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. How many thousands of children have we shared our love with and introduced to Christ? Along with our simple gifts of toys/clothing, each child is invited to attend The Greatest Journey – a 12 lesson bible study teaching them more about Jesus and how to live for Him. Our gifts bring unexpected joy and open hearts to learn about Jesus. Many parents also attend the lessons and so God's Word continues to be spread – all due to a small box filled with gifts.

What a fun and simple way for us to share the Gospel! Be a part of this by picking up a shoebox or two in the Communication Center on November 1st or 8th. Pray for the child who will receive it and then fill the box with fun and necessary items. Return the filled box by November 15.

This is such a generous congregation. Thank you for all you do for all of the various ministries.

Visit samaritanspurse.org/occ for more information.

MORE GOOD NEWS AND GREAT JOY! **St. Michael's GIRLS OF PRAISE has donated the shipping costs for ALL of the shoeboxes we collect! You read that right - the requested $10 shipping fee can be ignored as it is being covered for you. THANK YOU GIRLS OF PRAISE!**

Education with Christ at the heart of it.

Book Fair will celebrate "Good Friends, Great Chapters"

Visit the timeless and idyllic world of Arnold Lobel's "Frog and Toad" while shopping for quality, family-friendly books **Nov. 19 to 24** in our church/school library.

This year's Book Fair theme is inspired by the award-winning "Frog and Toad" series published in the 1970s. Besides decorations reminiscent of Lobel's marsh-like illustrations, the "Good Friends, Great Chapters" Book Fair will feature Lobel's books, along with hundreds of other titles intended to promote a love of reading among children.

As in previous years, our book fair vendor is Lowry's Books in Three Rivers, Michigan. Owner Tom Lowry is careful to provide books that are appropriate for our students and our church families. Christian titles will be among the selections in Lowry's blue rolling book carts. There will be books of interest to infants through middle school students, as well as a sampling of books for adults, such as Christian fiction and cookbooks.

The book fair serves as our library's primary means of purchasing new children's books. Last year's exceptional book fair brought 164 new books, with a retail value of nearly $1,800, to the library's shelves. Our school students are enthusiastic about their weekly library visits; already this school year, they have borrowed and returned nearly 1,000 books.

But the book fair also benefits more than the library. New titles also are acquired for every classroom at the school as well as at Christ for Kids, thanks to the generosity of our shoppers. Each teacher will make a small selection of books available at the book fair that may be purchased for her classroom library. ***Look for a display near the checkout if you would like to gift your favorite teacher with a new book.***

Unique this year, the book fair also will try to help students at Dix Street Elementary School in Otsego. A fire in its school library Sept. 21destroyed its books (and has temporarily displaced students). Shoppers who want to participate in a community book drive will be able to purchase books to help replace the library's collection.

Plan to visit the "Good Friends, Great Chapters" book fair during these days and times!

Nov. 19-20 7:45 to 8:15 a.m.
3:15 to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 21 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 22 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Nov. 23-24 7:45 to 8:15 a.m.
3:15 to 7:00 p.m.



Church members, your help is needed and greatly appreciated during the book fair. This big event requires many volunteers to ring up sales or simply bag books.
To help, visit:
https://tinyurl.com/Book-Fair-Signups
or email:
library@mightymessengers.org

THE SYMPHONY

"Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:18-20)

The word "agree" in this passage is the Greek word *sumphoneo.* (1) It is formed from two words, *sun*, meaning "together," (2) and *phone*, meaning "sound, tone, voice." (3) Used together, the words mean to make the same sound or tone, to harmonize, to be in accord. It's easy to see why it is sometimes translated as "agree."

It is also the word for "symphony," which you can easily see and hear in *sumphoneo.* Many instruments, many parts, yet same song, same sound – harmonious. This important Greek word is translated in other ways, while still containing the same underlying principle of agreement. In Luke 15:25, after the prodigal's return, it is translated "music," referring to the sound of celebration and partying in the father's home.

The Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) uses the word *sumphoneo* in Genesis 14:3 to speak of armies "joined together" as allies. Isaiah 7:2 uses it to speak of nations forming a "confederation."

To summarize these uses of *sumphoneo*: nations are stronger when aligned/joined with other nations; armies are stronger when their strengths and abilities are joined as one; fresh revelation can only be joined to a fresh heart; and God chooses to abide in the presence of joined hearts. As anyone would do, He walks out of the concert when all He hears is discord.

(Borrowed from an article by Dutch Sheets: "Give Him 15")

Agreement in Prayer

Just as a good symphony multiplies pleasant sound and synergy multiplies power, the opening text makes clear that agreement in prayer multiplies spiritual power. According to the verses, this happens not only when we address the Father, but also when we bind and loose the enemy.

We are stronger, we are better when we agree as a church body that acknowledges our mission is to: "Make disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ by building up one another in the faith and reaching out to others with the Gospel". Whether this is in church, home, business and even politics, we are stronger when we are in agreement with the Gospel.

Pray and Vote!

Blessings, Virginia Hetrick, Prayer Coordinator









YOUTH

UPCOMING Events

Sunday Morning Bible Study at 9:45am Every Week
High School in Youth Room
Junior High in Room #111

Nov 1 Coffee Shop
1-3pm Youth Group Harvest Moon Acres

Nov 8 5pm - Sports & Bible Study

Nov 15 4-6pm Service Project
Raking leaves (weather dependent)

Nov 22 5pm Thanksgiving Garlands Project

Nov 29 No evening Youth Group Thanksgiving weekend

Youth learning new devotional journaling skills.

















Youth Group Helping with the LWR truck and enjoying a Bible Study.



St. Michael's Youth Group uses the Signal Messaging App as our main form of communication for weekly updates about events. Please consider joining our Youth Group Signal Group*, if you have a youth between the ages of 6th-12th grade*. It is a great way to stay connected and know what is going on that your youth might be interested in participating in. If you need help with Signal or have any questions about the events please contact Pastor Maske or Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez 313.914.9187, worden.cait@gmail.com.

St. Michael Lutheran

Youth Group Christmas Party

December 13, 2026 | 1Pm Jr. Youth and 5pm Sr. Youth

RSVP in Signal or Church office

EVANGELISM

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



WE WILL BE COLLECTING:
NEW underwear for Toddler to 4XL adult sizes for distribution by the

KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES
SHELTER | DEVELOPMENT | PURPOSE

The Development Director will be at St. Michael to share more about the many ministry opportunities on Sunday, November 29th during the *Donuts & More* time between worship services.

We hope to have your help in collecting, to support the JLK Christmas Community Event.

This special, invitation-based event serves families we've connected with through community outreach throughout the year, providing gifts for more than 200 children, a hot meal for families, and a fun, welcoming space for kids while parents get to shop for items.

St. Michael was asked to provide by 12/10:

LOVES KZOO JESUS

350 tubes
Adult and Kid's
TOOTHPASTE



Lutheran World Relief Gathering Success!



Our annual Lutheran World Relief collection resulted in a total of 544 boxes from at least 20 various churches in Southwest Michigan. This was done in absolutely beautiful weather this year!

Thanks to receiving a number of grants from **Thrivent Financial** plus generous donations from many others, St Michael Church and School was able to put together 151 Baby Care Kits, 402 School Bags, 100 Hygiene Kits, and 30 Quilts. These were in 144 of the boxes on the truck that was loaded on Oct. 10th and 11th. The totals received from all the churches were:



Quilts: 204 boxes

School Bags: 167 boxes

Hygiene Kits: 105 boxes

Baby Care Kits: 72 boxes

Sewing Kits: 6 boxes

I want to again thank efforts of Michele Ryan in collecting, storing, organizing, and coordinating the assembly of all of the donations we receive. Also, thank you to all of those wonderful volunteers who helped in some way to sew, knit, assemble, package, load, and deliver the boxes. We couldn't do this without all of you! ~ *Jan Jett*



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

ladies golf

Calling all Women Golfers....

Fellowship is looking for feedback to determine if there is enough interest in starting a Women's Golf League for the spring of 2027. *Is that you?*



Let us know if you are interested and how often you would like to meet to hit some balls and enjoy the time with other women who like to golf. Contact Jim Neumann if you are Interested at 269-290-8442 or jneums1979@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS

On Thanksgiving week, gift bags will be available in the Communication Center for donations to our St. Michael homebound friends. We want to let them know their St Michael family remembers them and cares. These bags will be delivered the week prior to Christmas by the Faithful Visitor team. Names will be noted on each bag should you want to include something specific to an individual. Currently there are several on our home bound list. (5 couples, 3 men, 14 women) Homemade cards, wall calendars and children's letters are popular items. Our homebound friends enjoy the excitement of going through the bag and sharing with their family and staff that are around them. Thank you for your participation!



ADVENT MEALS

December 2nd, 9th and16th, come enjoy our tradition of serving meals on Wednesday evenings of the Advent season.

Join us in the gym at 5 pm for a meal and fellowship, followed by the mid-week worship service in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm. It is always a warm, tasty menu. Please join us for this holiday tradition.





Third Friday Chapel Meet and Greet

Every Friday at 9 am the students and family members of SMLS combine with the church members and meet for the liveliest service of the week. There is a lot of singing, worship and active participation by students and adults alike. If you haven't come to Chapel, you should consider adding it to your calendar.

Also, on the third Friday of each month, a special *Meet and Greet* is hosted for the adults to gather with other Chapel visitors immediately following the service for some "adult time". Come visit, enjoy a cup of coffee and refreshments and have a chance to get to know each other better. It's a great time to celebrate our Lord and get to know more members of our St Michael Church and School family. Consider joining us and get in on the fun!





Education with Christ at the heart of it.



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

Servants & Leadership



NOMINEES NEEDED

St. Michael will soon be electing new Board Directors and various Lay Leaders. Per our By-Laws, in February we will be electing a President, Treasurer, Board Directors, one-half of the members of the Board of Lay Ministry, and certain Trust Fund Officers.

Although some of our current leaders are up for their second term, and thus will probably be continuing in their positions, we have some director positions that will need filling and have vacancies for the assistant director positions, as well that would be appointed. Specifically, we currently have or will have vacancies in the following positions:

- ❑ President
- ❑ Treasurer
- ❑ Board of Parish Education Director
- ❑ Board of Parish Education Assistant Director
- ❑ Board of Parish Fellowship Director
- ❑ Board of Parish Fellowship Assistant Director
- ❑ Board of Evangelism Assistant Director
- ❑ Board of Youth & Young Adult Director
- ❑ Board of Youth & Young Adult Assistant Director
- ❑ 3 Lay Ministers

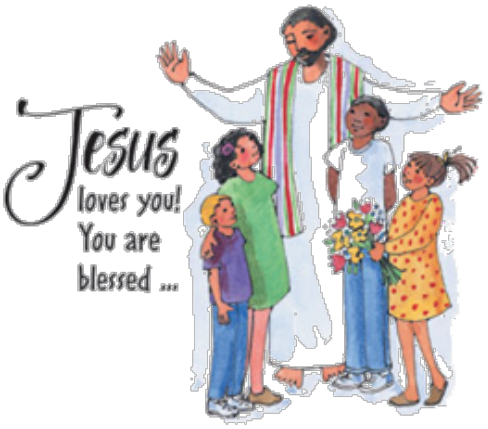
The Parish Planning Council is asking that you earnestly pray that God will let it be known to us, those St. Michael members who can and are willing to lead us for the next two years in these positions. We know that only prayer will bring us the right people at the right time, so please do this for us.

We understand that some may not know what is expected or how to do the job, but we will assign a mentor to assist you.

EXODUS CHAPTER 4: "GOD DOES NOT CALL THE QUALIFIED. HE QUALIFIES THOSE HE CALLS."

If you would like a description of any of these positions, please contact Tammy Songer in the Church Office (tsonger@mightymessengers.org). If you would like to be nominated for a position, please contact Mark Ruesch (mdruesch67@gmail.com).





SHEPHERD GROUPS

Lay Minister	Family Names Start with	Family Names & include
Kerry Batten 269-491-8128	A	Boelman
Harold DeFouw 269-569-6869	Boulis	Chadderdon
Rich Conklin 616-889-0201	Chilcott	D
Jeff Lauterbach 269-578-6415	E	Franzen
Dave Drzewiecki 616-560-2175	Frommann	G
Dave Johnson 269-599-2195	H	H
Bill Schinzer 269-366-5594	I	J
Ryan Bigelow 269-838-6062	K	Lapekas
Mark Kahle 402-730-1914	Lausman	McNees
Howard McNees 269-720-3857	Messing	Nelson
Perry Norman 269-816-1500	Neumann	P
Andy Allan 269-370-7052	Q	Shook
Greg Wedel 312-961-4636	Shuler	Stolsky
Matt Heintz 269-290-8507	Sullivan	T
Arlan Wendzel 269-816-5632	U	Z

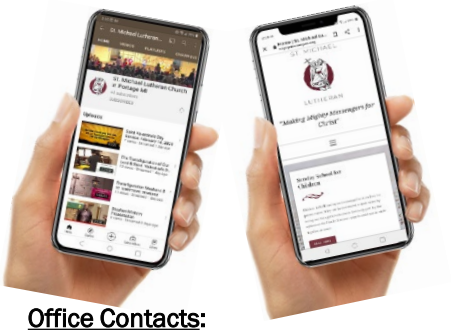
STAY CONNECTED

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

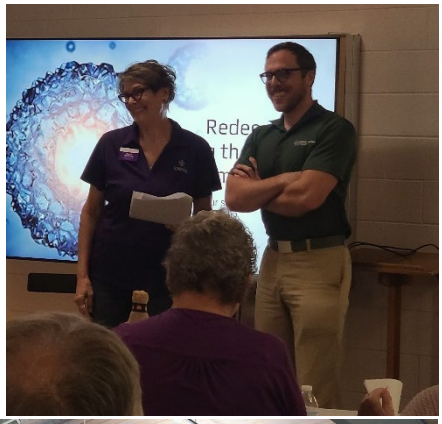


Office Contacts:
Church + 269-327-7832
School + 269-327-0512
Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

mightymessengers.org

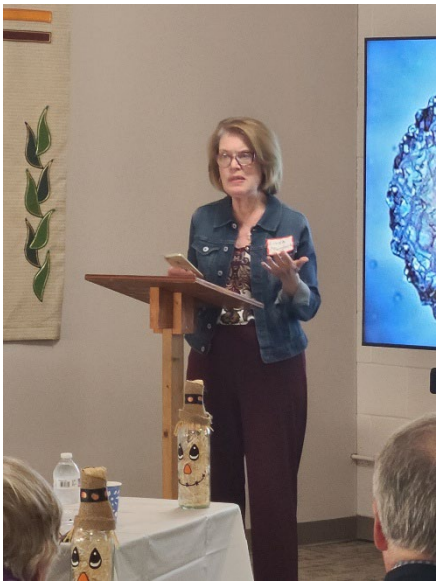
St. Michael's website is full of helpful information.

St. Michael hosted the LWML Battle Creek Zone Fall Rally on Sunday, October 4th, 2026. Representatives from area churches gathered for a light dinner, business meeting, and speaker. We were blessed to have Linda Murdock, Vice President of Organizational Resources for the Michigan District of LWML at the event. She spoke briefly about her role and the upcoming biennial convention in July 2027 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Our speaker was Pastor Trenton Wollberg, son of our Zone President Renita Wollberg. Pastor Wollberg presented information regarding the Biblical, moral and ethical factors to consider with assistive reproductive technology. He also discussed the process of embryo adoption and how it is similar to traditional adoption. Embryo adoption is a way to preserve the life that God created and help families dealing with infertility to start a family.

LWML
Lutheran Women *in Mission*





Women's Ministry

UPCOMING WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Saturday, November 14th, 2026, 9am. Please join fellow women from St. Michael Lutheran Church and School for breakfast, devotions and fellowship at **The Rooster's Call**, 9136 Shaver Rd, Portage, MI 49024. Please RSVP to Kathy Zakarias (815-519-2181 or k5zakarias17@gmail.com) by November 10th.

Sunday, December 6th, 2026, 5pm. You are invited to attend the annual **Advent by Candlelight dinner**, held at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Allan Hall. Plan to attend a wonderful evening of good food, good fellowship and a chance to pause during Advent to prepare our hearts for the birth of our Savior. Food, beverages and table service will be provided. A gift exchange is also in the works.
If you are interested in 'hosting' a table at the event, please contact Laura Bell (ljbell29@gmail.com), Judy Schroeder (jkschroe66@gmail.com), or Kathy Zakarias (k5zakarias17@gmail.com) for more details.

Calling all bakers!!! The annual **Women's Fellowship Cookie Sale** needs you. Special plans are in the works for a wonderful assortment of Christmas cookies to be baked and sold the weekend of **December 12th-13th**. Linda Fry (lkfry@charter.net) is taking the lead on this important and delicious fundraiser. Please let her know if you will be able to help bake cookies this year and for more information.

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/

September Financials

11 Months

11/1/2025 - 8/31/2026	
Church Revenue	$ 830,141
School Revenue	$1,229,305
Total Revenue	$2,059,446
Total Expenses	$2,083,916
Net Surplus (deficit)	$ (24,471)
Expense Budget	$2,023,501
Under/(Over) Budget	$ 35,945
Working Cash Balance	$ (9,691)
Mortgage Balance	$ 645,081

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	$ 847,259
Building Contingency	$ 14,800
Parking Lot Fund	$ 45,000
HVAC	$ 15,853
Technology Refresh	$ 3,452
Sunday School	$ 5,554
Youth Donations	$ 14,966
Youth Accounts	$ 5,273
Good Samaritan	$ 9,457
Memorials	$ 16,267
Fellowship	$ 5,353
Champion Church Network	$ 401
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	$ 9,147
Quilting	$ 1,063
POBLO South Asia Ministry	$ 596
Student Debt Fund	$ 143
Church Worker Scholarship	$ 400
Luth Medical Emergency Fund	$ 250
School Improvements	$ 6,092
Tuition Assistance	$ 12,021
School Music	$ 1,434
School Sports	$ 1,586
Flower Fund	$ 326
Building Utilization	$ --
LWML	$ 3,516
Women's Fellowship	$ 1,279
Faith Budget	$ --

Worship Attendance

Annual Avg. 2025 . . . . . **389**

August '26 Avg. 343

September '26 Avg. 389

October '26 Avg. **388**

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.

Lamplight
5PM Saturday

Divine
8AM Sunday

Blended
11AM Sunday



STAFF:

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann
naumann@mightymessengers.org

Associate Pastor
Rev. Daniel Maske
dmaske@mightymessengers.org

Business & Finance Manager
VACANT

Church Administrative Assistant
Child Ministry Coordinator and
Recording Secretary
Tammy Songer
tsonger@mightymessengers.org

School Principal
Greg Johnson
gjohnson@mightymessengers.org

School Secretary
Jessie Duniphin

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
Arrianna Cole

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
Various Musicians

Morning Song Director
Jane Connon

VOLUNTEERS:

President
Mark Ruesch

Vice President
Rob Kuhlmann

Treasurer
Jeff Lauterbach

Board of Church Properties
Dennis Cole, Director
Mark Vickery, Assistant Director

Facility Manager
Ryan Nelson

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 Rudowske, 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 Rudowske

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
Vacant, 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