

The Epiphany of Our Lord





St. Michael

Lutheran Church

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

WELCOME!

- ❖ **INFORMATION CENTER:** Are you interested in Bible classes, Sunday School, youth activities or our J.O.Y. Group senior adult ministry? Stop by the Information Desk in the lobby—we want to meet and help you.
- ❖ **GUEST and HANDICAP PARKING:** For your convenience, parking is located across from the main church entrance and the west entrance door (4).
- ❖ **AUTOMATIC DOORS:** Two sets of automatic doors are available. One is located on the west entrance door (4) and the other is located on the main doors (2).
- ❖ **LISTENING DEVICES** for those who have difficulty hearing the service are available at the sound booth at the back of the sanctuary.
- ❖ **TODAY'S SERMON IS AVAILABLE ONLINE**, along with prior sermons and Bible studies, at stmfw.org/sermons.
- ❖ **ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE** at stmfw.org/giving.
- ❖ **WE VALUE YOUR ATTENDANCE:** Please complete a connect card or visit stmfw.org/iamhere.

St. Michael loves new parents and small children!

- ❖ **WE WELCOME CHILDREN IN WORSHIP**, but if you need it, a nursery for children under age 5 is located in Room 24B. Please ask an usher for directions.
- ❖ **THE CRY ROOM** is our lobby. Please pull up a chair so that you may watch and listen to our worship service.
- ❖ **BUDDY BAGS** are available for small children in the lobby. You may pick one up prior to service and return on your way out. Enjoy!
- ❖ **CHANGING TABLES** are located in the family and women's restrooms adjacent to the lobby.
- ❖ **CHILDREN'S CHURCH** is for children 5 and under during the sermon at the 10:45a worship.

THE SUNDAY OF THE EPIPHANY
January 7, 2024
"A YEAR OF JUBILEE: SET FREE TO TELL THE STORY"

PRESERVICE

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES

Theme of the Day: In recognizing the Epiphany of our Lord this weekend, this officially closes out the Christmas season. We know that the "wise men" (Magi) were not present in the days following the birth of Jesus, but rather it was probably more like a couple years later. With the Magi coming from the East to see the one who was born King of the Jews, this event also acknowledges that Jesus came for everyone. The news of the birth of Jesus is for ALL people.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: "Arise, shine, for your light has come,

C: and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." (Isaiah 60:1)

P: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

C: on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawn." (Isaiah 9:2)

P: Jesus says, "I am the light of the world.

C: Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
(John 8:12)

P: O Lord, pierce the darkness of this world,

C: and make us reflections of Your light.

HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old
(stanzas 1-3)

397

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: "This is the message we have heard from Jesus and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.

C: If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

P: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7)

ALL: Holy God, forgive me, I pray. I confess that I often choose darkness instead of light. Forgive the darkness of my sin, as I daily fall short of the perfect image of God. Forgive the darkness and pain I have caused others. I pray that the light of Your truth will pierce the darkness of my soul. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me through Jesus Christ my Lord.

(silence for personal confession and self-reflection)

P: The light of Jesus Christ has come into this world to save sinners. Receive today the promise of forgiveness, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Live in peace with Him who is not only the light of the world, but the light of forgiveness and grace in your life.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN As with Gladness Men of Old **397**
(stanzas 4-5)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Holy God, as You led the Magi to follow the light of the star, lead us to more fully follow Christ in our daily life. Lord Jesus, hear our prayers and make us reflections of Your light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by the brightness of Your presence, and that all nations would be drawn to You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING		Isaiah 60:1-6
ANTHEM	I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light	Ensemble
GOSPEL READING		Matthew 2:1-12

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN The People That in Darkness Sat **412**
(stanzas 1-3)

SERMON “Leaning Like the Magi” **Pastor Shawn**
Matthew 2:9-12

NICENE CREED 8:00a/APOSTLES' CREED 10:45a

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

PRAYERS/THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 8:00a

PREFACE/PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/THE PEACE OF THE LORD

AGNUS DEI

COMMUNION HYMNS

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name	549
Glory Be to God the Father	506
God Loves Me Dearly	392
Go My Children with My Blessing	922

POST COMMUNION SONG

BENEDICTION

P: May God the Father strengthen you and bless you to live in peace.
May God the Son, Jesus Christ, forever be the light of truth in your life.
May God the Holy Spirit lead you and keep you.

C: Amen.

HYMN O God of God O Light of Light **810**
(stanzas 1-4)

SILENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus, may I daily see the light of Your presence and Your truth in my life. Amen.

St. Michael Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Dennis Goff, Senior Pastor

Shawn Davis, Missional Pastor

Stephanie Maxson, Music Director

Rhonda Patterson, Communications Director

Celine Newman, Director of Belonging

Mark Neubacher, Visiting Pastor

Emma Deines, Youth Director

Tammy Bruns, Executive Director

Tina Hoover, Executive Assistant

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

St. Michael Lutheran Church
2131 Getz Road 46804
STMFW.ORG | 432-2033
January 6/7, 2024



ST. MICHAEL'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2024 we celebrate 70 years of St. Michael! This year of Jubilee we will grow together through celebrations and spiritual practices while sharing the story of what God has done and is doing through His people. One way we will celebrate this coming year is through community events every 7 weeks (approximately). Save these dates on your calendar!

JUBILEE CELEBRATION DATES

February 24	Generosity Event
April 28	Congregational Meeting
June 8/9	Camp Lutherhaven Retreat
July 20 or 21	Cook Out Celebration
September 8	Rally Day
October 26/27	Fall Family Fun Festival
December 14/15	TBD

SERMON SERIES FOR 2024

The theme we will highlight for our 70th anniversary this year is “Jubilee: Set Free to Tell the Story.” The preaching focus throughout 2024 (with a few exceptions), will focus on a number of Old Testament characters who were a part of God’s salvation story down through the ages that has become our salvation story. Similarly, there have been countless people connected to St. Michael who have been a part of “telling the salvation story” here. We are all a part of, and continue to share in, that legacy.

CAMP LUTHERHAVEN WOMEN’S RETREAT—January 26-28

Dive into what it means to live on fire for Christ in life today with speaker Sara Scheiwe. This New Year’s retreat promises to be an intentional, fun, and encouraging time with others and with Jesus. For more information and to register, please visit www.lutherhaven.org.

iLEAD—this is an amazing opportunity!

This leadership development opportunity includes four large group sessions and four small group sessions with current and future leaders. **Everyone in the congregation**, currently serving in a leadership role or not, is invited to any of the four large group sessions with our guest presenters.

- **January 20 (8:30-10:30) at St. Michael:** Dr. Josh Wymore. Josh is an executive coach, keynote speaker, and trainer with WYMOR sharing skill sets and practices to become a “humbler” leader. Josh and his family proudly call Fort Wayne their home.

YOUTH EVENTS!

Join us for Make Your Own PIZZA NIGHT on January 7th for the First Youth Night of 2024! Remember we meet the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of the month with middle school from 4:00p-6:00p and high school from 6:00p-8:00p. Make your New Year’s Resolution to start attending!

Middle School “Connect Group” 8th grade students and their parents: we usually meet every Tuesday, and will Re-Connect Tuesday, January 9 from 3:00p-5:30p at Electric Works.

COMING SOON!

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week adventure, you’ll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what’s “normal” in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you’ll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. Join us Tuesday evenings, March 5-May 28 from 6:30p-8:30p in Luther Hall. Contact Robert and Rebecca Boyd with questions at (862) 409-4520 or bb4bboyd@gmail.com.



MENTAL WELLNESS SERIES AT ST. MICHAEL

St. Michael will offer a series of presentations over the next five months related to mental wellness. Over the course of our life time, one in every two people will be impacted by a mental health challenge in some way. As a church, we believe that God has made us with body, mind, and spirit and so it is appropriate for the body of Christ to address all three to some degree. These sessions will be held in Luther Hall and child care will be available. Join us **Tuesday, January 16 from 6:30p-7:30p. Anxiety Awareness:** Through discussion we will work to set a foundation by defining and reviewing the basics of anxiety. We will then shift gears and spend the second half of the evening focusing on parenting with mental health in mind. **Presenter: Heather Carter, LSW (ESM School Counselor)**

PEOPLE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE STUDY

Since our preaching series this year will be focusing on people of the Old Testament, we will be reading various sections of the Old Testament through the year. Don't miss the next four weeks of our adult Bible class as Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Pulse from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, will help set the stage for our Old Testament reading this year. Dr. Pulse's class is entitled: "Reading the Old Testament Christologically." Understanding the Old Testament and its Christological foundation means first understanding the Hebrew people and their conventional relationship with God. As a result, the task is not to "find Jesus in the Old Testament," but to believe that Jesus IS the Old Testament. Dr. Pulse will lead this study January 14, 21, 28, and February 4. Additional adult study options will begin in February!

THE CHRISTIAN LEADER BIBLE STUDY

During this 8 Week series for Christian leaders we will be unpacking various topics that are relevant to being a high quality leader. Beginning January 6, an iLead Leadership seminar will be taught at a local Fort Wayne church. The following Sunday we will gather to review and discuss the topic that was discussed. During the in-between weeks we will dive into additional topics focused on helping you to grow as a Christian Leader. **This study is for any leader, those who serve at St. Michael as well as those who serve in leadership positions outside the church.**

January 7	Review of the Job of the Church
January 14	A Good Leader Is A Good Follower: Submission to Christ and others
January 21	Review of Humbler Leadership
January 28	Being the Leader God Made Me To Be - Strength's inventory
February 4	Review of Resilient Faith
February 11	The Creator of Time and the Enemy of Hurry: Rhythms of a Godly life
February 18	Review of Women as Leaders
February 25	The Ministry of Investment

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

Saturday, December 30	103
Sunday, December 31	231

EXCITING ESM INFORMATION!

With so many schools in the area to choose from, making the decision about where your child will begin their education is easier said than done. We invite you to join us to get a clear picture of what ESM is all about! Learn more and register using the QR codes below.

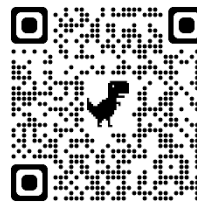
KINDERGARTEN Information and Enrollment Sessions:

- Wednesday, January 17 OR Thursday, February 15
- 6:30p-8:00p | Getz Road Campus
- Bring your future student for a fun activity with teachers!
- Childcare provided for siblings

PRESCHOOL Information and Enrollment Sessions:

- Thursday, February 1 | Getz Road Campus
- Thursday, February 8 | Union Street Campus
- 6:30p-7:30p
- Information session for parents
- Childcare provided

QUESTIONS? - Contact Erin Clark, Director of Admissions
422-6712 | eclark@esmeagles.com



NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School will be joining with Lutheran Schools around the country and the world to celebrate during the week of January 21. We are thankful for Emmanuel and St. Michael congregations and their faithful support of ESM both spiritually and financially. ESM celebrates its unique mission as a distinctively Lutheran school in providing 'Education for Life and Faith for Eternity'!

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

We are privileged to pray for each other. Please notify the staff on your connect card or by email if you would like your prayer needs kept private. Otherwise, we will print them in this publication on a weekly basis.

- **January Milestone Birthdays:** Cathy Reinking, 1/2, 84; Joretta Black, 1/6, 91; Dave Davis, 1/12, 81; Linda Hansen, 1/15, 81; Dorothy Smith, 1/20, 92; Wayne Scrogham, 1/26, 81; John Ribar, 1/27, 88; Lynn Auman, 1/29, 82; Janet Davis, 1/29, 81. **Happy Birthday!**
- Everett Michael, son of Mark and Shannon Rose who was born on 12/26/23.
- Mike Szlapak diagnosed with cancer.
- Wayne Jester, Liz Edwards cousin, who suffered from a heart attack.
- Maeve Render, Liz's Edwards great, great niece, diagnosed with a blood infection.
- Tony Chaves, friend of Adam and Jami Jo Hahn, who suffered from a brain bleed and stroke. Pray for those who will care for him.
- Continued prayers for Mike Rohrbach, Kristen Wetzel, Brad (brother-in-law of John and Sue Baker), Sonja Sodano, Brian Seiy, Judy Pieper, Al Claus, Linda Hansen, Don and Kathy Magner, Brian Wielosinski, Sue Doepner and her family, Mason Leininger, Mary Nichols

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK January 8-14

Monday, January 8

6:00p Harmony Ringers
6:45p BSF Young Adults
7:00p Resound Rehearsal
7:00p Men's Bible Study/Jones

Tuesday, January 9

7:00p Church Council
7:00p Praise Teams Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 10

9:15a Coffee Break
10:30p Men's Bible Study
6:30p Women's/Men's Choir
7:00p Adult Choir

Thursday, January 11

7:00p Jubilant Fields Rehearsal

Friday, January 12

8:00p Men's Basketball

Saturday, January 13

5:00p Worship

Sunday, January 14

8:00a Worship
9:30a Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
10:45a Worship

SERVING AT ST. MICHAEL this weekend

Are you able to join a worship service team? Contact Tina Hoover at 432-2033 or tina@stmfw.org.

Greeters: Sue Baker (5p); Heather Maloney (8a)
Ron and Kendra Nieman, Jan Fillmore (10:45a)

Lay Readers: Adam Hahn (5p); Gretchen Weerts (8a); Jessica Krauter (10:45a)

Children's Church: Kira Clendenen (10:45a)

Acolytes: Owen Bostwick (5p); Jaden Hoover (8a); Adam Ruch (10:45a)

Information Desk: Gloria Fahlsing (5p); Gretchen Weerts (8a)
Holly Booth (10:45a)

Ushers: Dave and Myra Atkinson (5p); Dave Crow and Greg Caudill (8a)
Dennis Brink, Karen Hall (10:45a)

Elders: Ryan Meyer (5p); John Hein (8a); Jeremy Allyn (10:45a)

Nursery: Helene and Naomi Hendrickson

Fellowship: Paul and Darlene Buuck

Altar Guild: Sue Baker

Epiphany | New Year Reading Guide

*In 2024 we will be reading about different characters of the Old Testament. This revised reading guide is setup for personal study, along with questions for group discussions, and ways to bless those around you.

Isaiah	Matthew	Luke	John	Psalm
60:1-6	2:1-12	2	1:1-18	1

1. What from these chapters what caught my attention?
2. So what about that section connects to my life, right now?
3. Now what is God speaking into my life through this reading?

Isaiah 60 | Arise, arise for your light has come

Matthew 2 | The Magi visit

Luke 2 | The Christmas Story

John 1 | The Light has come in the darkness

Psalm 1 | Blessed

Connect Group | Questions

Even as Jesus was born, people were yearning to know more about Him and His story, they were leaning in. Over the last year, what have you learned from leaning into reading through the New Testament and becoming more like Jesus?

Blessing (see sermon outline)

Who is leaning into your story and wanting to know more? How can you use the opportunity to disciple (Matthew 28:19-20)?

SERMON OUTLINE

Leaning Like the Magi
Matthew 2:9-12

The Journey:
(estimated 900+ miles)



When they saw the star,
they were overjoyed.
Matthew 2:10

Leaning:

Herod

Magi

On coming to the house,
they saw the child with his mother Mary,
and they bowed down and worshiped him.
Matthew 2:11

