

Rebekah

Genesis 24





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.

FIRST WEEKEND IN LENT
February 18, 2024
THE YEAR OF JUBILEE: SET FREE TO TELL THE STORY

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES

Theme of the Day: As we highlight several Old Testament characters in our worship services this year, this weekend we zero in on Rebekah, the wife of Isaac and the mother of Jacob and Esau.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C: Amen.

P: As we continue our theme of people of the Old Testament, today we remember Rebekah.

C: Rebekah was the wife of Isaac, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

P: After Rebekah became pregnant with Jacob and Esau, the Lord said to her:

C: "Two nations are in your womb, one will be stronger than the other, the older will serve the younger." (Genesis 25:23)

P: Esau was born first, then Jacob,

C: but Esau sold his birthright to Jacob.

P: When Isaac their father was preparing to give a blessing to his oldest son, Rebekah intervened,

C: and Jacob received the blessing.

P: Isaac's action of blessing Jacob leads Jacob to be the father of Joseph, the future of Israel.

C: God used Rebekah to bring to fulfillment God's plan to tell the story of salvation through His people.

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy
(stanzas 1-2)

507

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

C: If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 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, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

P: O Lord, even though You already know all my sins, You desire to hear my confession.

C: For my sins, those I know and those known only to You, I humbly confess. Lord, have mercy on me. Christ, have mercy on me. Lord, have mercy on me.

(silence for personal confession and self-reflection)

P: Almighty God, in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, I announce to you the forgiveness of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy **507**
(stanzas 3-4)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Holy Lord, we pray that You would daily pour out Your grace into our lives. May we be always directed to follow Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil, live daily for You, and walk in the way of Christ until we receive the kingdom that has been prepared for us through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

All: **Amen.**

FIRST READING		Genesis 24:1-21
ANTHEM 8:00a	Living Water	Adult Choir
10:45a	Make a Joyful Noise	Flute Choir
GOSPEL READING		John 4:1-26

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE/BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Please pray for Brody Bienz; Ryker Bolinger; Owen Bostwick; Frank Cavazuti; Griffin Coe; Daniel Davis; Ivy Murphy; Nadelyn Roehm; Maggie Schwyn; Jack Tourney; and Lincon Woolwine.

HYMN Sing Praise to the God of Israel **936**
(stanzas 1-4)

SERMON “And Then Some” **Pastor Goff**
Genesis 24:1-21

NICENE CREED 8:00a

APOSTLES’ CREED 10:45a

OFFERING/OFFERTORY 10:45a Songs of Gratitude **Flute Choir**

EIGHTH GRADE CONFIRMATION TESTIMONY 10:45a

Anniston Dougal whose confirmation verse is John 15:12

PRAYERS

The G.A.P. Team will pray with you in the worship conference room after the services.

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

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Your Table I Approach	628
God Loved the World so that He Gave	571
Hail Thou Once Despised Jesus	531
Go My Children with My Blessing	922

POST COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you, and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN	Almighty God Your Word is Cast (stanzas 1-4)	577
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SILENT PRAYER

Lord, help me to see how I can respond to Your leading in my life to serve others. 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
STMFV.ORG | 432-2033
February 17/18



NEW ADULT BIBLE CLASSES BEGIN THIS WEEKEND!

- **A Hebrew Perspective for Understanding the Bible (5 weeks)** This study will examine Hebrew culture, tradition and language exploring Scripture and further understanding its meaning. Topics will include, but are not limited to, the impact of the Ancient New East practice of foot washing, the effective teaching methodology employed by Jesus, and exploration of “authority” in both the Old and New Testaments, and the people of Jesus’ time (i.e., Sadducees, Orthodox Jews, Gentiles, Zealots). Location – Gym.
- **Thrive: Living Resilient and Renewed (12 weeks)** Using the Thrive workbook, this class is designed for helping anyone have strength, recovery and resilience from any mental health difficulty or disorder. Location – Library
- **Money and Marriage God’s Way (7 weeks)** This class is a video based Bible study from Compass Ministries. It provides insights for your marriage and your finances. Together, you will explore what God’s Word says about earning, spending, giving, debt reduction, and investing. You’ll also discover how to communicate more effectively and resolve conflict. Location – Conference Room
- **Creative Faith** with Jen Clendenen and Anna Davis Location – Room 13

MENTAL WELLNESS SERIES AT ST. MICHAEL—Tuesdays

February 20, 6:30p-7:30p Depression and Faith in the Life of the Christian

It doesn’t matter if you call it clinical depression, seasonal affective disorder, or just “winter,” the fact is that depression is a part of our lives. We will discuss the relationship between depression and faith, and the most elusive thing when we are suffering, namely, hope in Christ. Presenter: Rev. Dr. Todd A. Peperkorn (Assistant Professor of Pastor Ministry and Missions, Director of Vicarage at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne)

GRIEFSHARE: NEW OFFERING AT ST. MICHAEL (13 weeks)

Through this 13-week adventure, 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 (863) 409-4520 or bb4bboyd@gmail.com.

PLAN TO JOIN US AT A TOWN HALL MEETING!

We want all members of St. Michael to have opportunities to come and learn more about the proposed changes, ask questions, and connect with one another at “town hall” style meetings. We look forward to seeing you there!

- **February 20** **1:00p during J.O.Y. Group in Luther Hall**
- **February 29** **6:30p at St. Michael in Luther Hall**
- **March 3** **12:00p at St. Michael in Luther Hall**
- **March 12** **6:30p online via Zoom**
- **March 16** **6:15p following Saturday night service in Luther Hall**

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS (5 WEEKS) – BEGINNING MARCH 3

This class is designed for those who are new to the Christian faith or new to the Lutheran church. This is also a great class for anyone who would like to renew some basic and foundational topics we confess and practice in the Christian faith. Location – Luther Hall.

JUBILEE GENEROSITY EVENT—February 24 from 6:00a-10:00a

We kick off our Jubilee Celebration with a generosity event Saturday morning in Luther Hall. Generosity is at the heart of God and His gifts are meant to be shared with the world around us. We would love to have you join in and serve our public servants with your presence while enjoying some delicious breakfast food prepared by our congregation members. While you are here, make a plaque for our new members, and be sure to make and take a gift bag and make a connection with your neighbor. We will also be doing a prayer walk covering our building in prayer. Can you donate items for our gift bags? We would love microwave popcorn, \$1 word search/Sudoku books, and decks of cards!

JUBILEE HISTORY DISPLAY

Check out the lobby display celebrating the inception of St. Michael with pictures, personal accounts, and items from the church’s archives!

RESPONDING TO GOD’S LOVE

Saturday, February 10 **114** Sunday, February 11 **431** Livestream **104**

HOLY COMMUNION IN THE PEW

Would you like to receive Holy Communion in the pew? Please contact the church office, as we try to keep a running list for the Elders. Also, please mention your desire each Communion service to an usher or Elder.

FOUNDATION AWARD PROPOSAL REQUESTS ARE OPEN!

Submit an application for a SMLC Foundation Award! Be creative in your thinking! Perhaps you seek funding for specific Youth Group activities, a Connect Group ministry, or a Men's Ministry project. Applications are due 5:00p on April 6. Submit an explanation letter to the St. Michael Foundation in care of Ron Menze, Foundation Advisor (menzeron@gmail.com) (341-5289) or into the Foundation mail slot at church.

ACADEMY DINNER—March 9 at 6:30p / register at stmfw.org/events

Menu: Bronze chicken, garlic smashed potatoes, oven roasted vegetables, garden salad and dinner roll

Cost: \$15/adult
\$10/children 12 and under

FEBRUARY MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Sonja Sodano, 2/1, 83; Carol Korte, 2/2, 83; Mike Bristol, 2/3, 80; Margaret Jones, 2/13, 82; Peggy Macke, 2/18, 87; Jim Biddle, 2/28, 85.

LUTHERAN LAYMANS LEAGUE ANNUAL CONVENTION—March 16, 9:00a-2:30p

Join us at St. Michael to hear our guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, speaker of the Lutheran Hour®. The cost is \$20 including lunch. Registration deadline is March 5. Register to attend here: <https://stmfw.org/register>.

LENTEN WORSHIP—now through March 20

Please join us on Wednesdays at 11:00a or 7:00p as we explore the topic of darkness including denial, disconnection, doubt, despair and deception. The light of Easter is all the brighter when you come out of the darkness.

Maundy Thursday	March 28	11:00a and 7:00p
Good Friday	March 29	11:00a and 7:00p
No worship	March 30	
Easter Sunday	March 31	7:00a, 9:00a (livestreamed), and 11:00a

EASTER FAMILY FUN CELEBRATION—plan now to join us March 24 at 9:30a
Pre-K through Grade 5 families are invited to join in a Family Fun Easter Event! Stay tuned for all the details coming soon!

SAVE THE DATE for VBS! - Breaker Rock Beach June 17-21

"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2 Get ready to learn about God's rock solid truth in a world of shifting sands. More information about registration and volunteering to follow!

PURCHASE AN EASTER PIE AND SUPPORT ST. MICHAEL YOUTH!

Purchase a strawberry, key lime, or peanut butter pie, as well as a Chocolate Torte for \$25 each. Proceeds from the sale will support the youth traveling to North Carolina this summer and the 2025 National Youth Gathering. Pies will be available to pick up on Saturday, March 30, from 12:00p-12:30p and Easter Sunday from 8:00a-11:00a in the gym. Please place your order by March 15. Thank you!

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS!

MIDDLE (4:00p-6:00p) HIGH SCHOOL (6:00p-8:00p) **Join us this Sunday, February 18 for YOUTH NIGHT!** We continue our new series of Identity: Beliefs and Practices! Over the next several weeks we will take a deep dive into how our identity is shaped by what we believe and what we practice. Future Youth Nights include March 3, March 17, April 7 and April 21.

High School Food and Fellowship at Electric Works – Join us February 20 from 6:00p-8:00p for amazing food, games, and a Lenten devotion.

"**Confirmation Connect**" is a time for 8th grade students and parents to meet with DCE Emma, play games, have snacks, and get to know one another. "Connect" is every Tuesday from 3:00p - 5:30p at Union Street Market at Electric Works.

SAVE THE DATE FOR EAGLES RISE 2024!

Please join us for Eagles Rise, Emmanuel-St. Michael's annual fellowship and fundraising event, on **Friday, March 8** at Goeglein's Homestead. The evening will provide an opportunity for parents, supporters of ESM, former students, teachers and administrators to gather, share fellowship and raise money for our school. **Register:** <https://www.esmeagles.com/giving/eagles-rise>

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:	Mary Bear; Ken and Sue Faus (5p); TBD (8a); Ron and Kendra Nieman; Randy and Jan Fillmore (10:45a)
Lay Readers:	Adam Hahn (5p); Norma Endersby (8a); Brian Judt (10:45a)
Children's Church:	Emma Latin (10:45a)
Acolytes:	Kingston Sprunger (5p); Jaden Hoover (8a); Eli Pieper (10:45a)
Information Desk:	Gloria Fahlsing (5p); Linda Kaufmann (8a); Holly Booth (10:45a)
Elders:	John Baker (5p); Mark Muntzinger (8a); Steve Manges (10:45a)
Nursery:	Helene and Naomi Hendrickson
Fellowship:	Jerry Murday; Aimee Stir
Altar Guild:	Sue Baker

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK February 19-25

Monday, February 19

3:45p Grace Notes
6:00p Harmony Ringers
6:45p BSF Young Adults
7:00p Resound Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 20

1:00p Purls
1:00p Town Hall Meeting/Luther Hall
6:30p Mental Wellness
7:00p Praise Teams Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 21

10:30p Men's Bible Study/Wickert
11:00a Lenten Worship
1:30p Praying for Our Nation
6:30p Men/Women's Choir
7:00p Lenten Worship
8:15p Adult Choir

Thursday, February 22

6:00p Orchestra Rehearsal
6:30p Lower Rowers Men's Bible Study
7:00p Jubilant Fields Rehearsal

Friday, February 23

8:00p Men's Basketball

Saturday, February 24

6:30a Jubilee Generosity Event
8:00a Men's Prayer Breakfast
5:00p Worship

Sunday, February 25

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

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

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

- Vonda Treace at Florida hospital undergoing tests.
- The family of Brad Tuttle, brother-in-law of John and Sue Baker, who died Wednesday.
- The children and grandchildren of David and Kathryn Trinklein that they remain strong in their faith and relationship with Jesus as the world tires to influence them.
- DeeDee Beights as she heals from her ankle surgery.
- Melissa Chaney, daughter of Dan and Pam Green, suffering from severe dry eye. Doctors have not been able to determine cause.
- Julie Boze as she struggles with a severe brain concussion.
- The family of Dorothy Rohrbach who died Monday morning.
- **Those who continue to recover from surgery or other medical procedures**
 - Shirley Fahlsing – infections
 - Alan Claus – health issues
 - Arlene Lasley – breathing and oxygen levels
 - Rita Russell – knee replacement
 - Simone, niece of Amy Stir – rods to straighten spine
 - Noah Lee – cracked collarbone
 - Pat Armstrong – knee replacement
- **Those who continue to struggle with cancer**
 - Misty Hernandez – surgery
 - Roger Fenker, friend of Ron and Kendra Nieman
 - Brian Seiy
 - And all others we know suffering with cancer or treatments
- **Continued prayers** for Derrick Minnick, Marjorie Grace and Madison Leininger, Britt and unborn child (daughter-in-law of Debbie Waldick), Wayne Scrogam, Mary Bear, Erin Drummond (daughter of Adam and Jami Jo Hahn), John Ribar, Margaret Jones, Tony Chavez, Mike Rohrbach, Kristen Wetzell, Judy Pieper, Don and Kathy Magner, Brian Wielosinski and Mason Leininger

WEEKLY READING PLAN for FEBRUARY 18-24, 2024

Genesis 24:1-25:15

Becoming more like Jesus – growing in His Word

Although Valentine’s Day was last week, this week’s reading is kind of love story – not only between two people, Isaac and Rebekah, but also of God’s love and faithfulness.

“Abraham sends his servant to find a wife for his son Isaac. Rebekah and her parent’s consent to the proposal. Though they have not met, Isaac and Rebekah consent to a marriage that will be filled with God’s blessings and love. Many people today (only) see romance and emotion as the basis of marriage. Instead, God wants marriage (lifelong faithfulness vowed publicly) to be the basis for the love of husband and wife. Such love is a picture of Christ’s love for the Church.” (See also the description of marriage in Ephesians 5 where the image of the marriage relationship between a husband and wife is likened to the relationship between Christ, and His bride, the Church.)

From the Lutheran Study Bible, p. 52

Genesis 24 | Why did Abraham not want a wife for Isaac from among the Canaanites, and instead he sends his servant back to their homeland to secure a wife for Isaac? How does this demonstrate what is important to Abraham? What qualities or characteristics does Abraham’s servant demonstrate in this story? What qualities or characteristics does Rebekah demonstrate in this story? How is God’s hand evident in this story, such that it is concluded, “This is from the Lord” (v. 50)?

Genesis 25 | We were first introduced to Abraham in chapter 12, and now here in chapter 25 we read about his death. In chapters 12-25, what are the most noteworthy character traits which Abraham demonstrates? Which character traits of Abraham would we want to avoid?

TODAY'S SERMON NOTES