

THE LIBERATING LIGHT OF EASTER!



7:00a and 9:00a services

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Worship with us

Saturday at 5:00p

Sunday at 8:00a and 10:45a

stmfw.org



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 RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD – EASTER SUNDAY
March 31, 2024
7:00a and 9:00a

PRESERVICE

WELCOME

INVOCATION AND EASTER GREETING

- P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**
P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
P: This is the day the Lord has made!
C: **We will rejoice and be glad in it!**
P: Open our lips, O Lord.
C: **That we may declare Your praise!**
P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C: **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today
(stanzas 1-4)

457
Orchestra and Bells

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: On the morning of the resurrection, the women approached the tomb in fear because the stone had been rolled away and Jesus was not there. As we come before a Holy God in worship, we too have every reason to be afraid because He is Holy and our sins are many. However, our gracious God invites us to come into His presence. He invites us to acknowledge our fears, and confess our sins and receive His peace and forgiveness.
- C: **Holy God, I confess that I often let the things of this world consume my attention. I often rely on my limited understanding and forget Your infinite wisdom. I have not always loved You as I should. I have often ignored or dismissed others around me. Renew for me today the power of Your resurrection victory for my life – victory over sin, death, hell, and the power of the devil. Inspire me to daily live in the light of the victory of Jesus for my life.**

(silence for personal confession and self-reflection)

P: God has good news for you today. Jesus willingly went to the cross to pay the price our sins deserve. In Jesus' death and resurrection, God forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Hear this truth for your life today that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Heavenly Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and the grave, and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we too may be raised from the death of sin by Your live-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

ANTHEM Christ is Risen, He's Risen Indeed **Adult Choir and Orchestra**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 15:1-11

ANTHEM Fanfare for Easter Day **Choir, Brass, Percussion**

GOSPEL READING John 20:1-18

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN I Know that My Redeemer Lives **461**
(stanzas 1, 2, 5, 8) **Orchestra and Bells**

EASTER MESSAGE "Darkness vs. Light" **Pastor Dennis Goff**
John 8:12

CONFESSION OF FAITH

OFFERING

ANTHEM The Lord is My Light **Adult Choir and Orchestra**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

If you are visiting with us today, please see our communion statement on page 6

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

SONG OF PREPARATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/THE PEACE OF THE LORD

SONG OF RESPONSE

COMMUNION HYMNS

This is the Feast	LSB pg. 155
Alleluia Jesus is Risen	474
The Strife Is O'er	464
Now All the vault of Heaven Resounds	465
Awake My Heart with Gladness	467
O Sons and Daughters of the King	470

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION ANTHEM Hallelujah Chorus **Adult Choir, Orchestra, Bells**
(Please rise and join in singing if you are able)

BENEDICTION

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go from here in the peace, and with the promise, of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for you.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Christ the Lord is Risen Today **469**
(stanzas 1-4)

SILENT PRAYER

Jesus, help me to live out the truth of Your resurrection and victory in my daily life. Amen.

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Pastor Dennis Goff	pastorgoff@stmfw.org
Missional Pastor	Pastor Shawn Davis	pastordavis@stmfw.org
Visitation Pastor	Pastor Mark Neubacher	mneubacher@holycrossfw.org
Worship Director	Stephanie Maxson	stephanie@stmfw.org
Director of Youth Ministry	Emma Deines	emma@stmfw.org
Director of Belonging	Celine Newman	celine@stmfw.org
Executive Director	Tammy Bruns	tammy@stmfw.org
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Executive Assistant	Tina Hoover	tina@stmfw.org
Communications Director	Rhonda Patterson	rhonda@stmfw.org
Sound Technician	Marisa Wren	marisa@stmfw.org
Family Ministry	Jennifer Clendenen	jennifer@stmfw.org
Principal	Dr. Ben Stellwagen	bstellwagen@esmeagles.com
Shepherd of the School	Pastor Jonathan Meyer	jmeyer@esmeagles.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2131 Getz Road 46804

STMFV.ORG | 432-2033

March 31



EASTER BREAKFAST—March 31 from 8:00a-11:00a

Enjoy the community at St. Michael plus biscuits and gravy, baked French Toast, scrambled eggs, fruit and more from Chef Terry Hammond and Barry Shoaff. A free will offering will help to cover the cost of the event.

EASTER PIE ORDERS

Thank you! Pick up pies today from 8:00a-11:00a in the gym.

EASTER FLOWERS

Flowers are available after the 11:00a worship service!

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Our Lord invites to His table those who have been baptized, who repent of their sin, who believe Jesus Christ is their Savior, and who believe the body and blood of Jesus is really present together with the bread and wine. Anyone who is not yet instructed in the Christian faith or who has a differing belief are asked to first speak with one of the pastors. If you need communion delivered to where you are sitting, please notify an usher or elder before the service begins. Gluten free communion wafers are available by raising your index finger as communion is distributed signaling to the elder that you wish to receive a prewrapped gluten free wafer. Grape juice is available in the purple tinted cups located in the center of the tray of individual cups. Children or adults who have not yet been confirmed or instructed in the Lord's Supper are welcomed to come forward for a blessing placing their arms over their chest.

WHO'S WHO AT ST. MICHAEL? PHOTO BOOTH FUN!

Did you know that you can put your picture in Fellowship1Go? Your picture in the database makes it more usable for our congregation. Throughout the month of April, check out the photo booth where you and your family can get your picture put directly into the database. No need to sign up ahead of time! Stop by on a Saturday or Sunday before or after worship and we will take your picture and upload it into the database. You can also select your own picture to upload by signing into <https://stmfw.fellowshiponego.com/> and selecting your own profile.

GO AND SERVE—join us Saturday, April 27 from 9:00a-12:00p
Please register at stmfw.org/events to help:

- The Shepherd's Hand Outreach Center prepare for their 5k run and more
- Camp Lutherhaven prepare for a new season of camp
- St. Michael prepare for Confirmation Sunday on May 5 and VBS in June

THE SHEPHERD'S HAND COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

The Shepherd's Hand Community Outreach Center located at 1231 S. Anthony Blvd. is an LCMS organization that seeks opportunities to enhance health and wellness for community members in southeast Fort Wayne. By providing healthy cooking classes, distributing diapers, and connecting people to services through quarterly health fairs, Shepherd strives to fulfill the mission of *'reaching out in the city by caring for the Shepherd's people, daring to be the Shepherd's hands, and sharing the Shepherd's love.'* **St. Michael will celebrate this ministry in our worship services on April 27/28.**

THE SHEPHERD'S HAND ANNUAL 5K WALK/RUN—Saturday, May 4

Help raise funds for this vital ministry by participating in the 4th annual 5K walk/run held in the neighborhood surrounding the center. **Families** are encouraged to attend and enjoy a fun, healthy activity together! Registrations are \$25, and participants will receive a T-shirt as long as supplies last. Children 8 and under are free. If you are unable to participate in the race, you can support the ministry by sponsoring a race slot to benefit another participant or make a general donation. For more information and to sign up or donate scan the QR code!



ST. MICHAEL MENTAL HEALTH SERIES – April 16 at 6:30

The final presentation this Spring in our community mental health series is titled, **“Faith, Hope & Healing: Suicide Prevention in the Faith Community”** with Alice Jordan from the Behavioral Health and Family Studies Institute at Purdue University Fort Wayne. Alice is active in the Indiana Suicide Prevention Coalition, the Indiana State LOSS Team Network and is a QPR Master Trainer in suicide prevention. Her presentation will focus on increasing awareness, establishing healthy networks, and providing practical strategies for suicide prevention.

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING—Thursday, April 18, 6:00p-8:00p

Join us in Luther Hall for this important life-saving training presented by Alicia Levitt of The Lutheran Schools Partnership. **Question, Persuade, and Refer** training enables you to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to help. This free training is limited to 30 people. **Register before April 11 at stmfw.org/register.**

TOWN HALL QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION—April 14 at 9:30a

The Governance Task Force is listening and learning so much from our Town Hall Meetings! Thank you so much for attending, your insightful questions and encouragement. Join us at a question and answer session on Sunday, April 14 at 9:30a as we review revised bylaws and possible policy templates.

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER AND MEETING—Sunday, April 28 at 4:30p

Join us in celebrating our “Identity in Christ” at our second **70th Jubilee event**. This family event will include an hour of fun, family oriented activity, a meal beginning at 5:30p, and our regularly scheduled voters’ meeting beginning at 6:00p. Childcare will be provided during the voters’ meeting for families with young children. We will acknowledge how we are uniquely gifted by God as individuals, how we collectively are the body of Christ at St. Michael, and we will celebrate our identity in Christ.

J.O.Y GROUP EVENTS

Join us **Thursday, April 11 at 11:00a** at the Coventry Pizza Hut. Donnie Foster will be joining us to update his mission "Misfits". Please reserve your spot by calling Penny at 580-8730 by April 4.

Join us **Thursday, May 9 at noon** for MOVIE DAY and lunch. Cost is \$5. Please reserve your spot by calling Penny at 580-8730 by May 1.

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

At *Breaker Rock Beach VBS*, kids will be challenged as they discover that God's truth never changes, everyone needs Jesus, and learn to speak the truth in love.

JOIN THE VBS DECORATING COMMITTEE!

The fun is beginning! Join us in Luther Hall on **April 13 and 20 from 9:00a-4:00p** to make decorations for the big event in June! Questions? Contact Carrie Gould at carrie.gould1137@yahoo.com.



YOUTH NEWS!

MIDDLE (4:00p-6:00p) and HIGH SCHOOL (6:00p-8:00p)

Future Youth Nights include April 7/21.

High School Food and Fellowship at Electric Works – Join us April 16 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.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT! KID SITTING OPPORTUNITY!

On April 12 from 6:00p-9:00p, drop off children 2 years old through 5th grade and enjoy a night out! This is a free-will offering/fundraiser to support our St. Michael Youth 2024 Servant Event. Children will enjoy a night of games, snacks, and fun! To sign up or ask questions please email DCE Emma at emma@stmfw.org.



SPRING CLEANING HELP AVAILABLE!

The St. Michael Youth would like to help you with your Spring Cleaning! Contact DCE Emma at emma@stmfw.org with any of your spring cleaning needs. This event will be a fundraiser for our youth heading to North Carolina this summer and for the 2025 National Youth Gathering. We want to help serve you as you have supported our youth!



ASK THE EXPERT WORKSHOP—Thursday, May 2 at 11:30a and 6:30p
Everyone is invited to ask questions about financial planning, estate planning, updating your will, guardianship issues and more. Our panel includes Estate Attorney Mark Witmer, Certified Financial Planner Chip Olson, Foundation Advisor Ron Menze, and Pastor Dennis Goff. Join us for a (free) boxed lunch at 11:30a or snacks at 6:30p. **Please register at stmfw.org/events.**



FUTURE LUTHERAN CHURCH WORKER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

St. Michael is blessed to have several young people who are currently attending, or will be attending, one of our Lutheran universities or seminaries in preparation for professional church work (i.e., pastor, teacher, DCE, etc.). If you are one of those, you are invited to submit an application for a grant to the St. Michael Foundation. The deadline is April 6 (5:00p). Submit a letter of request 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.

FOUNDATION AWARD PROPOSAL REQUESTS ARE OPEN! Deadline April 6

Perhaps you seek funding for specific Youth Group activities, a Connect Group ministry, or a Men's Ministry project. 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.

WE NEED PUPPETEERS!

Have you ever wanted to become involved with something fun and creative? Are you available to practice on Thursday's from 6:30p-8:00p? Are you available to perform for VBS from 8:30a-9:30a, June 17-25? The puppets and VBS need YOU!!! No experience needed, we will train you. We are in need of 4-8 people. Text or call Amy Crow at 459-9320.

PRAYING FOR OUR NATION

Prayer is powerful! Please join us on April 3/17 and each first and third Wednesday of the month at 1:00p to pray for our nation. Starting on August 21-November 5 we will meet weekly to pray for the election.

APRIL MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS—God's Blessings!

Marge Ball, 4/5, 83; Diane Jackson, 4/6, 81; Sue Starkey-Vusich, 4/6, 86; Shirley Fahlsing, 4/8, 89; Virgil Brockmann, 4/9, 87; Dave Jackson, 4/11, 84; Melvin Kiessling, 4/12, 80; Charlotte Kiessling, 4/12, 80; and Jim Reiter, 4/19, 81.

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.

REDEMPTION HOUSE

Redemption House is a network of transition homes for women who desire to redeem their lives from past destructive behavior by developing a faith-based lifestyle and by gaining the skills necessary to achieve and maintain success.

St. Michael will celebrate this ministry in our worship services on May 11/12. We will also host a pancake breakfast to benefit their mission trip! Join us from 7:00a-10:00a in the gym. A free-will offering will be gathered.

St. Michael will provide a meal and Christian community at Wayne Street and Fairfield Avenue on April 21. If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, please contact Linda Chapman at 417-3052.

Join us at the **Butterfly Gala on Tuesday, April 23 from 5:00p-8:00p** at the Grand Wayne Center. We'll celebrate victories and achievements as evidence of God's favor on and provision for the Redemption House ministry. We'll also share our challenges and dreams. <https://e.givesmart.com/events/vws/>

CHECK OUT CAMP LUTHERHAVEN!

Registration for summer camp is now open! Camp Lutherhaven has so many fun activities, including boating, hiking, making crafts, and of course... Capture the Flag! These activities and so much more are available for those of all ages—from kindergarten through High School, even some for the whole family! Register online today at www.lutherhaven.org, or call for more information at 260-636-7101.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

Saturday, March 23 **139**

Sunday, March 24 **470**

Livestream **116**

MANY THANKS TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TAMMY BRUNS!

In her position on our church staff for the last seven years, Tammy has touched nearly every aspect of the daily operation of St. Michael's ministry. We have been blessed! St. Michael sends best wishes and God's blessings to Tammy as she begins a new position with Brotherhood Mutual. Over the next several weeks, please take time to express appreciation to Tammy for her valuable service to the ministry of our church. Her last day of work at St. Michael will be April 19, yet we are thankful that Tammy, her husband Rick and daughter Alexis will remain connected to St. Michael as their church family.

"IMAGINE" FINE ARTS CAMP (FAC) JUNE 24-28 at St. Michael

The Fine Arts Camp is a week-long summer day camp that provides an opportunity for youth to connect faith, creativity and community. The camp will be June 24-28 from 9:00a-3:30p with child care available before and after the camp. Participants will choose from electives including drawing, chimes, creative writing, drama, dance, sewing, fiber arts, and more! Register at <https://stmfw.org/fineartscamp>. The link also has Frequently Asked Questions, a daily schedule, cost, and more information about the electives that are offered. Hope to see you at FAC this summer!

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: Ross Fredrickson, Kris McKay (7a); Brad and Jennifer Chaffee (9a);
TBD (11:00a)

Acolytes: Bonnie and Mamie Allyn (7a); Maggie Evans and Keaton Krauter (9a);
Anniston Dougal and Emily Peters (11:00a)

Information Desk: TBD (7a); Rich and Linda Kraus (9a); Holly Booth (11:00a)

Elders: Robert Boyd (7a); Mark Muntzinger (9a); Craig Patterson (11:00a)

Nursery: Emma Latin and Mollie Grover (9a) Emma and Caitlyn Stir (11:00a)

Fellowship: Easter Breakfast with Chef Terry Hammond and Barry Shoaff

Altar Guild: Candi Luchnenko

CALENDAR OF EVENTS for April 1-12

Monday, April 1

Easter Holiday/Office Closed

Tuesday, April 2

1:00p PURLS

1:00p J.O.Y. Bible Study

5:15p Life Team

6:30p Trustee Team Meeting

6:30p Griefshare

7:00p Praise Team

Wednesday, April 3

10:30a Men's Bible Study/Wickert

1:00p Praying for Our Nation

7:00p Elders Meeting

Thursday, April 4

6:15p Puppet Practice

6:30p Lower Rowers Men's Study

Friday, April 5

8:00p Men's Basketball

Saturday, April 6

5:00p Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, April 7

8:00a Worship with Holy Communion

9:30a Sunday School and Bible Study

10:45a Worship

4:00p Middle School Youth

6:00p High School Youth

Monday, April 8

3:30p Grace Notes

6:00p Harmony Ringers

6:45p BSF Young Adults

7:00p Men's Bible Study/Jones

7:00p Resound

Tuesday, April 9

6:00p Worship Team Meeting

6:30p Griefshare

7:00p Praise Team

Wednesday, April 10

9:15a Coffee Break Bible Study

10:30a Men's Bible Study/Wickert

6:30p Men's and Women's Choir

7:00p Adult Choir

Thursday, April 11

11:30a J.O.Y. Event

6:15p Puppet Practice

6:30p Lower Rowers Men's Study

7:00p Jubilant Fields Rehearsal

Friday, April 12

6:00p Parent's Night Out!

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.

Please pray for...

- The family of Patty, Stephanie Graber's mother, who died expectantly this week.
- Ashland Reiter as she struggles with friends and the challenges of high school.
- Anita Thomas, neighbor, who had knee replacement surgery on Monday.
- Cindy Kaszowski, who had hip replacement surgery on Monday.
- Carol Korte that her tests next week have positive results.
- Pray for the family of Dawn Otis, friend of Sarah Weiss, who died March 15.
- Sheila, friend and colleague of Laura Goff, who had back surgery. Pray for a full and complete healing.

Those who continue to recover from surgery or other medical procedures

- Doreen Muntzinger – cataract surgery
- Audrey Meyers – breathing
- Brad Benner – continued healing from blood clot and COVID, recent rotator cuff surgery
- George Lutz – continued healing from heart surgery
- Alan Claus – health issues
- Arlene Lasley – continued healing, breathing and oxygen levels

Those who continue to struggle with cancer

- Kate Ahlersmeyer, friend of Karen Hall
- Jan, friend of Dave and Kathy Trinlein
- Chris Huber, friend of the Briney family
- Randy LaFrentz, friend of Joel and Gretchen Weerts
- And all others we know suffering with cancer or treatments

Continued prayers for Mitzie Reiter, Joann Auman, Caroline Britt, Scott Grover, Levi Smith, Sarah (daughter of Jerry and Mary Nichols), Charile (son of Trisha Englert), Amber Afarin, Michelle and her family, Derrick Minnick, Marjorie Grace and Madison Leininger, Britt and unborn child (daughter-in-law of Debbie Waldick), Wayne Scrogam, John Ribar, Margaret Jones, Mike Rohrbach, Kristen Wetzel, Judy Pieper, Don and Kathy Magner, Brian Wielosinski and Mason Leininger

Easter Sunday – Sermon Notes

“Darkness vs. Light”

John 8:12

Sunrise

- John 20:1
- Isaiah 9:2

“Darkness” and “Light” in John’s Gospel

- John 1:5, 9
- John 12:46
- John 8:12

“Darkness vs. Light”

1. Our _____ vs. the light of Jesus
Isaiah 5:20
John 3:19-20
2. Our _____ vs. the light of Jesus
1 Corinthians 4:5
3. Our _____ vs. the light of Jesus
Ephesians 5:8, 11
1 John 1:5-6
4. Our _____ vs. the light of Jesus
2 Corinthians 4:4, 6
Colossians 1:13

“Not today Satan!”

Jesus is the _____ of the world! – John 8:12

You are the _____ of the world! – Matthew 5:14