

Reading through the NEW TESTAMENT

at St. Michael



The Letter of Paul to the
PHILIPPIANS



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.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 10, 2023

PRESERVICE

WELCOME

OPPORTUNITIES

Theme of the Day: Today is Rally Day! Even though school has already been in session for a few weeks, this is our official beginning of the season for Sunday School and Christian Education here at St. Michael. In our New Testament reading we are reading from Philippians 3- Colossians 3 this week. In Philippians 3 we hear Paul say, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize," so on this Rally Day, let's "get in the game".

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C: Amen.

P: "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize?"

C: Run in such a way as to get the prize.

P: Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training.

C: They do not get a crown that will not last; but we do get a crown that will last forever."

(1 Corinthians 9:24-25)

P: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,

C: let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles,

P: let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

C: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,

P: who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

C: Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men,

P: so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." (Hebrews 12:1-3)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:6)

C: If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice 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 cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7-8)

(silence for personal confession and self-reflection)

P: Almighty God, Heavenly Father,

C: I confess that I have not put Christ first in my life. Too often, I have tried to be lord of my own life. Too often, I have lived apart from the light of Jesus in my life. For the sake of Jesus Christ and His death on the cross, let Your mercy shine upon me. As He is risen from the dead, fill me with renewed hope today, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

P: Friends in Christ, I have good news for you today; today is a brand new day! Your Father in heaven has heard your confession. Because of Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, God forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. God fills you with the Holy Spirit that you may live a new life today in Christ as His disciple.

C: Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we thank and praise You for Your continued presence among us in the teaching of Your Word. Send Your blessing upon the Word, which is spoken to us, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our saving knowledge of You, that day by day we may be strengthened in Your truth and remain steadfast in Your grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING		Philippians 3:7-21
ANTHEM 8:00a	Resting in Your Arms Make Us One	Women’s Choir Flute Choir
10:45a		
GOSPEL READING		Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

CHILDREN’S CHURCH 10:45a

HYMN Just a Closer Walk with Thee

SERMON “Get in the Game” **Pastor Goff**
Philippians 3:7-21

APOSTLES’ CREED 8:00a

NICENE CREED 10:45a

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 10:45a

PREFACE/PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS (sung to the tune of *Ye Sons and Daughters*)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

AGNUS DEI (sung to the tune of *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Chief of Sinners Though I Be	611
Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord	637
Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing	528
Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise	680
I Love Your Kingdom Lord	651

POST COMMUNION (sung to the tune of *For All The Saints*)

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	On What Has Now Been Sown (stanzas 1-3)	921
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SILENT PRAYER

Lord, may Your Word take root in my life and grow each day. 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

(260) 432-2033 • www.stmfw.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

St. Michael Lutheran Church
2131 Getz Road 46804
STMFW.ORG | 432-2033
September 9/10, 2023



SUNDAY SCHOOL and ADULT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS!

All ages are invited to join us in the gym for “Minute to Win It” games, singing, and a special celebration of our church family. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with old friends and meet new ones as we start the new Sunday School year!

Room Assignments beginning September 17

- Pre-K Room 9
- Grades K/1 Room 12
- Grades 2/3 Room 11
- Grades 4/5 Room 15
- Grades 6/7 Room 18
- Grade 8 Room 16
- High School Youth Room

Adult Bible Studies

- Discipleship Through Connection Room 20
- New Testament Epistles Gym
- Navigating Your Finances Conference Room
- Creative Faith Room 13

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES ON SUNDAY AT 9:30A

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MONEY?

Join us as we explore a scripture-based 7-week financial class called **“Navigating Your Finances God’s Way.”** The videos, workbook questions, scripture readings, and group discussion will help you be a better steward of the gifts God has blessed you with while also improving your financial health and freedom. Whether you’re single or married, young or old, wealthy or not - this class is for you! Taught by Tim Thoms and Mary Leininger

NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES BIBLE STUDY

Paul is credited with writing half of the books (or better, letters) in the New Testament. These letters are highly personal communications from Paul, and often a co-author, to particular individuals or churches in the first century AD. These are all letters that God inspired Paul to write, meaning God is at work through reading someone else’s mail originally intended for a particular audience. These are all letters of relevance and power for God’s Church still today! As we finish out our reading through the New Testament this Fall, this class will focus on a significant portion of what we have been, or currently are, reading. Taught by Keith Peters

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH CONNECTION BIBLE STUDY

As St. Michael continues reading through the New Testament in a year, the Leadership Team is creating a weekly reading plan to help our church family 1) find their place, and 2) lead others in our discipleship model of Becoming More Like Jesus, Belonging to His Church, and Blessing His World...as we connect people to Jesus and others! Join us to learn more about the reading plan, the St. Michael discipleship model, and how to connect with others as a leader or participant in a connect group. Taught by Pastor Shawn

CREATIVE FAITH GATHERING

Join us for a meaningful and creative experience! Connect with fellow attendees through prayer and community building while enjoying activities like meditative coloring and Bible journaling. Taught by Jen Clendenen and Anna Davis

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS CLASS (5 sessions)

Sunday, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 9:30a-10:30a

CFC is a great class for current members as well as anyone who has not been a member at a LCMS Church and is desiring to join membership at St. Michael. Contact Celine at celine@stmfw.org to sign up.

DISCIPLESHIP FOUNDATIONS CLASS (3 sessions)

Sunday, November 5, 12, 19 from 9:30a-10:30a

DFC is for anyone taking further steps connecting into the church. It includes current members and those joining in membership at St. Michael by transfer from another LCMS church. Join us for this three-week class where we learn more about how God uniquely designed us and how we can use those gifts and talents in His kingdom.

PARABLES OF JESUS BIBLE STUDY

Monday nights at 7:00p

The Monday Night Bible study will begin classes on September 11 at 7:00p in the after school care room and will continue every week through November 20. We'll be looking closely at the Parables of Jesus. The cost of the class is \$5. Please contact Terry Butler if you wish to attend (or if you have any questions) at tgbslb67@yahoo.com or call/text him at **515-6356**.

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH!

"Find your Identity"

Over the next few months we will be looking at "whose we are" and our identity in Christ. High School join us on September 17th from 6:00p-8:00p! Middle School join us on October 1st from 4:00p-6:00p!

Middle School Rally - We send prayers and blessings to all youth across Indiana coming together for the Indiana District Rally in September. For those who signed up we will meet at St. Michael on Saturday (September 16) at 8:30a. We will do a quick ice breaker and devotion before driving to Camp Lutherhaven. We will return around 12:00p on Sunday (September 17). If you have any questions or would like to be a parent leader, please contact DCE Intern Emma at emma@stmfw.org.

During our youth nights, we also need help in the kitchen. If you would like to provide or help with a meal or item, please sign up here!



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF INDIANA (LSSI)

The Cup of Kindness program offers support that keeps individuals moving toward their goals, providing a connection to the hope that lies in Christ. Through referrals from social-service agencies and Lutheran congregations, Lutheran Social Services of Indiana (LSSI) offers supportive services through case management, financial-literacy education and/or financial assistance to help families move toward financial stability. Call LSSI Works at 426-3347.

THE SHEPHERD'S HAND COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

As a St. Michael partner in ministry, Shepherd's Hand is 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. To volunteer, please contact Susan Hein at heinsd01@frontier.com or 418-0725.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF) FOR YOUNG ADULTS 18-35

St. Michael is hosting Young Adult BSF on Monday evenings from 6:45p-8:15p in Luther Hall. Join us for contemporary Christian worship and small group discussion. Discover that the wisdom of the Bible is relevant to every age. BSF is a place to go deeper—to grow in your relationship with God as you navigate the early years of adulthood. Visit join.bsfindernational.org.

REDEMPTION HOUSE UPDATE

We will provide a meal at Wayne Street on September 10 and October 1 and Fairfield Avenue on September 17 and October 15. Contact Candi Luchnenko to provide a dish at 422-2061.

J.O.Y. GROUP

Thursday, September 14 at 12:00p

Celine Newman will share information on Codetalkers--Heroes from WW 2. A Spanish-themed lunch will be available for \$5.00, payable at the door. Call Penny Pequignot at 580-8730 for reservations ASAP.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH RETURNS!

Children 5 and under are invited to a brief, age-appropriate lesson, song, and craft during the sermon in the 10:45a service. Contact celine@stmfw.org to share interest and ask any questions.

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.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

Attendance:	Saturday, September 2	138
	Sunday, September 3	233
	Sunday Livestream	103

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

- **September Milestone Birthdays:** Nila Goshert, 9/8, 93; Bette Kendall, 9/8, 98; Helen McDowell, 9/14, 80; Sandy Dent, 9/16, 80; Dorothy Ecenbarger, 9/18, 95; Carol Hilkey, 9/18, 80; Belva Patterson, 9/20, 82; Bob Zinn, 9/20, 85; Bill Barlow, 9/29, 86.
- **September Baptism Birthdays:** Brenden Butler, Leah Daseler, Carter Derr, Ross Fieldhouse, Luka Fillmore, Alexis Harrison, Connor Hathaway, Samantha Hetrick, Knox Roehm, Walker Runyan, Decker Scherer, Henrick Sorlie, Ryleigh Stiffler, and Ella Wren.
- **Altar Flowers:** If you would like to remember a special person or occasion with altar flowers, please sign up on the poster outside the church office. Thank you!
- **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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday

6:00p Harmony Ringers (8th grade and older handbell rehearsal)

7:00p Parables of Jesus Adult Bible Study

7:00p Resound Rehearsal (Advanced 8th grade and older
handbell rehearsal)

Tuesday

6:00p Worship Team Meeting

7:00p Church Council Meeting

7:00p Praise Teams Rehearsal

Wednesday

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

7:00p Adult Choir

Thursday

10:30a JOY Event: Codetalkers—Heroes from WW2

6:15p Puppet Practice

6:30p Men's Bible Study-John Hein

7:00p Jubilant Fields Rehearsal

Friday

6:00p Small Group Bible Study-Adrienne Moeller

8:00p Men's Basketball

SERVING AT ST. MICHAEL this weekend

Greeters: Mary and Rich Busch (5p); Tim and Marilyn Crum (8a)

Ushers: Dave Atkins (5p); Dave Crow (8a); Dennis Brink (10:45a)

Children's Church: Vaughn and Macy Hendrickson (10:45a)

Acolytes: Anniston Dougal (5p); Emilia Yoder (8a); Maggie Evans (10:45a)



Reading through the New Testament—Week 36

September 10-16

Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

This week's reading takes us from Philippians to Colossians. Paul's letter to the Colossians (the church at Colosse) was a part of what are called his Prison Epistles (Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon) written by Paul from prison in Rome.

At one time, Colosse was a leading city in Asia Minor (present-day Turkey). However, generations before Paul wrote the epistle, Colosse had deteriorated into decay. Nevertheless, Paul's letter to the church in that town (albeit a declining one) is a Word from God that has lasting significance still today.






It's believed that Paul never actually visited the church in Colosse. Instead, the missionary work there was started by a man named Epaphras who heard the gospel from Paul and consequently brought it to Colosse. However, several years after Epaphras started the church there he made the journey to Rome (1300 miles). He was concerned about the Colossians' loyalty to Jesus and felt that the gospel message was being threatened there. That concern is what prompted Paul to write the letter. Paul knew that the more the Colossian believers understand the person and work of Christ, the better equipped they will be to recognize and reject errors.

The letter to the Colossians was delivered by one of Paul's co-workers, Tychicus who was accompanied on his journey by Onesimus, the runaway slave who had become a Christian and whom Paul was now sending back to his master Philemon in Colosse.

In Colossians, Paul presents perhaps the most complete treatment on the doctrine of Christ found anywhere in the New Testament. At that time, and still today, the message of the gospel and salvation by grace through faith in Christ is often blurred or minimized. However, here Paul clearly and directly points us to Jesus.

New Testament in a Year—September 10-16

Philippians/Colossians

Chapter 3  4  1  2  3 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

Philippians 3 As you read this chapter, reflect on the points made in this weekend's sermon.

Philippians 4 Verse 8 is a good verse to memorize, and put into practice!

Colossians 1 After reading the section above (Becoming more like Jesus – growing in His Word), notice that Colossians 1:15-23 is a good example of Paul trying to once again have the Colossian Christians focus on Christ – who He is, and what He has done.

Colossians 2 Similar to what is stated above related to chapter 1, read chapter 2 and see how Paul is laying out the supremacy of Christ over against human actions.

Colossians 3 Here Paul speaks about how we are to live, but he makes it very clear that how we live as Christians is in “response” to Jesus, not an effort to “earn” what Jesus has to offer (“Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above . . .” 3:1).

Blessing the World

Our Sunday School/Adult Bible Study offerings through December will benefit LSSI Cup of Kindness. The Cup of Kindness program offers support that keeps individuals moving toward their goals, providing a connection to the hope that lies in Christ. Through referrals from social-service agencies and Lutheran congregations, Lutheran Social Services of Indiana (LSSI) offers supportive services through case management, financial-literacy education and/or financial assistance to help families move toward financial stability. Call LSSI Works at 426-3347.

Belonging in Community

Connect Groups are a group of Christians who meet together regularly where we intentionally share in our faith walk. Connection is created through commitment and presence in fellowship, discussion, and prayer.

- Begin your time together by following up on anything that was shared during your last time together.
- Take some time to share any reflections or aha's you had from your reading.

This week we are talking about the choices we make that impact how we engage in the living out of our faith. Whether our choices are active or passive, they have important implications for our connection to Jesus, our growth in Him, and our effectiveness in serving His mission.

Connecting to Jesus

- What are some ways that you intentionally do something to connect with Jesus? (scripture, prayer...)
- Are there ways that you passively connect with Jesus? If yes, what are they?
- What are some things that you may need to improve or habits that you need to prioritize to remain connected to Him?

Connecting to His Church

- What are some ways that you intentionally do something to connect with the Church? (service groups, choir, ministry teams...)
- What are some gifts that you may have that you could use within the church community?
- Time management can be a struggle when it comes to choosing to remain connected to your church family. What does or how could it look to make connecting with God's people a priority?

Connecting to The World

- What are some ways that you intentionally do something to connect with those who do not attend church? (knowing your neighbors, volunteering...)
- Are there people who don't have a connection to Jesus that you may know that you could be intentional about building a relationship with so that they may hear and experience Jesus?
- Sometimes it is hard to make connections with someone who may not know Jesus. What are some ways to make the connections more natural?

Take the time connect to Jesus in pray over what has been shared in your time together.

THIS WEEKEND'S SERMON OUTLINE

"Get in the Game!"

Philippians 3:7-21

Pre-game recruitment/Rally Day

K _____ **Christ** – "I want to know Christ . . ." (3:10)

- P _____
"I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." (3:7)
- P _____
"knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (3:8)
- P _____
- P _____
"to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings" (3:10)
- P _____ on
"I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me . . . I press on toward the goal" (3:12, 14)

P _____ **Christ**

- R _____ emphasis
"that which is through faith **in Christ**" (3:9)
- R _____ from God
"and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own . . . but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God" (3:9)
- R _____ from God
"Let us live up to what we have already *received*." (3:16)

O _____ **Christ**

- B _____ out there
"For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ." (3:18)
- B _____ of Christ
"Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do." (3:17)

Bear, Moose, Wolf