

WE PRAISE
AND THANK GOD
FOR CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION!





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.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 17, 2023
ESM Education Sunday

PRESERVICE

WELCOME

PRESCHOOL SONG 10:45a Jesus Loves Me

OPPORTUNITIES AND GREETING

Theme of the Day: Although school has been in session for several weeks, we consider this Sunday to be “ESM Education Sunday” where we take the opportunity to celebrate the ministry of Emmanuel – St. Michael Lutheran School. The theme for this school year is “Connected to Christ” from John 15.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Jesus says, “I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you,

C: **you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”** (John 15:5)

P: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

C: **goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law.”** (Galatians 5:22-23)

P: Jesus says, “This is to my Father’s glory that you bear much fruit,

C: **showing yourselves to be my disciples.”** (John 15:8)

P: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit,

C: **fruit that will last – so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”** (John 15:16)

HYMN

Come Thou Fount
(stanzas 1-2)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(silence for personal confession and self-reflection)

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. By the authority of Jesus Christ, 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

Come Thou Fount
(stanza 3)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lord of the church and Lord of our lives, we thank You for being the Vine and connecting us to You. We pray that You would bless our connections to You and to others that we would bear much fruit to Your glory and so prove to be Your disciples, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

FIRST READING	1 Thessalonians 1:2-10	
ANTHEM 8:00a 10:45a	The Fruit of the Spirit The Fruit of the Spirit	Adult Choir ESM PK-8 and Faculty
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS/ CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:45a		
GOSPEL READING	John 15:1-11	

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS 8:00a

HYMN By Faith

SERMON **Pastor Jonathan Meyer**
(ESM Shepherd of the School)

NICENE CREED 8:00a

APOSTLES' CREED 10:45a

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

RECOGNITION OF ESM MINISTRY

- Dr. Ben Stellwagen, Principal
- Commissioning of Jennifer Ackmann
- Installation of Jennifer Ackmann, Johanna Miesner, and Stephanie Mueller
- Dedication of ESM Faculty and Staff

PRAYERS

Members of the G.A.P. team are available to pray with you after the service in the worship conference room.

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

O Lord, We Praise Thee **617**

Alleluia Sing to Jesus **821**

How Great Thou Art **801**

Beautiful Savior **537**

The Lord, My God Be Praised **794**

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

How Firm a Foundation
(stanzas 1-5)

728

SILENT PRAYER

Holy Spirit, keep me connected to Christ all the days of 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

(260) 432-2033 • www.stmfw.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

St. Michael Lutheran Church
2131 Getz Road 46804
STMFW.ORG | 432-2033
September 16/17, 2023



ESM TEACHER COMMISSIONING AND INSTALLATIONS

At our Sunday 10:45 worship service this weekend, we are celebrating the ministry of our school, Emmanuel – St. Michael Lutheran School. Included in this service will be the “commissioning” or Jennifer Ackmann who recently completed her Colloquy program and thereby is eligible to be Commissioned as a Minister of Religion in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Additionally, two of our new teachers who were “called” to their positions, Johanna Miesner and Stephanie Mueller, will be installed into their role as well. Along with Jennifer, Johanna, and Stephanie we will dedicate and pray over all of our ESM faculty and staff for the 2023-2024 school year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL and ADULT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS!

- 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 on Sundays

- 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!

Prayers and blessings for the IN Junior High District Rally and all the youth attending. Our St. Michael group will be a part of a wonderful weekend with over 80 other youth from all over Indiana.

High School Youth Night - "Instagram Highlights": How does social media impact the way we see ourselves? Join us this Sunday, September 17 from 6:00p – 8:00p for a Bible study, games, and fellowship.

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. 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 praise 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 October 1 and Fairfield Avenue on October 15. Contact Candi Luchnenko to provide a dish at 422-2061.

J.O.Y. GROUP

Thursday October 12 at 12:00p

Join us for lunch and hear our speaker Pastor Larry Rast give a presentation on the history of Lutheranism in America with particular focus on the Fort Wayne Area. Charge is \$5.00 payable at the door. Reservations should be made by calling Penny Pequignot at 260-580-8730 by October 5th.

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 emma@stmfw.org to share interest and ask any questions.

LWML FALL EVENT AT ST. MICHAEL!

The LWML North Zone Fall Event will be Saturday, October 14, from 8:30a-12:00p, right here at St. Michael. Registration and breakfast cost is \$6.00. The theme is "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God" (Isaiah 40:1) with a speaker from the Comfort Dog Ministry. Reserve your spot with the church office or Linda Chapman at 417-3052.

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 9	112
	Sunday, September 10	403
	Sunday Livestream	99

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:** Thank you to Steve and Nancy Wallace for remembering their loved ones who have passed with altar flowers.
- **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)

6:45p BSF Young Adults

7:00p Parables of Jesus Adult Bible Study

7:00p ESM School Board

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

Tuesday

6:00p Frankenmuth Informational Meeting

6:30p Stephen Ministry Meeting

7:00p Praise Teams Rehearsal

Wednesday

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

7:00p Adult Choir

Thursday

6:15p Puppet Practice

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

7:00p Jubilant Fields Rehearsal

8:00p Faith and Friends Bible Study

Friday

8:00p Men's Basketball

SERVING AT ST. MICHAEL this weekend

Greeters: Mike and Jo Sienk, Rick Bruns (5p); Kris McKay, David and Kathy Trinklein (8a); Gary Gotsch (10:45a)

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

Children's Church: Ker, Emma and Elijah Latin (10:45a)

Acolytes: William Biggs (5p); Bonnie Allyn (8a); Austin Pieper (10:45a)

Information Desk: Gloria Fahlsing (5p); Terry Hammond (8a); Liz Edwards (10:45a)



Reading through the New Testament—Week 37

September 17-23

Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

This week and next, our reading includes the two letters Paul wrote to the Thessalonians.

Thessalonica was a large and important city of the Roman Empire. As the gospel began to be shared there, it was often received with fierce opposition and persecution from the Jews. Paul was worried how the congregation would stand up under the constant resistance.






Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica to encourage and strengthen the young Christian congregation there. Timothy later reported back to Paul about how things were going. Not only were the believers in Thessalonica remaining faithful, but they were actively spreading the gospel elsewhere. In his letters, Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know how thankful he was for their faithfulness and continued to encourage them. It is believed that Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians was one of the first, if not the very first, of Paul's letters.

Paul spends the first half of 1 Thessalonians expressing his love and concern for his fellow Christians there. In the second half of the letter, he encourages the Christians not to be idle. Apparently, they had the mistaken notion that Christ's second coming was imminent and didn't need to do anything except wait for that day.

In 2 Thessalonians, Paul again warns against idleness but he also focuses on the eager anticipation of Christ's second coming. Maybe the most famous part of 2 Thessalonians deals with the coming of the Antichrist. Of Paul's two letters to the Thessalonians, no other teaching has been subject to so much misinterpretation and speculation.

New Testament in a Year—September 17-23

Colossians/1Thessalonians

Chapter 4  1  2  3  4 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

Colossians 4 Read vv. 2-6. What role does prayer, thankfulness, wise actions, graceful (even salty) talk – play in advancing the message of the gospel?

1 Thessalonians 1 Read about Paul's experiences with the Thessalonian church in Acts 17:1-9.

1 Thessalonians 2 List all the characteristics of a faithful Christian worker and witness referenced in this chapter. Of those, which do you possess? Which do you want to develop? Who has been a positive example to you of such characteristics?

1 Thessalonians 3 What in Timothy's report particularly encourages Paul? What does this tell you about Paul's desires and concerns for the Thessalonians?

1 Thessalonians 4 Read what vv. 13-18 say about the return of Jesus.

Blessing the World

As ESM strives to establish a firm connection to Jesus, they love to have volunteers who exemplify what it means to follow Christ by being his hands and feet. Here are some (but certainly not all) ways to volunteer at the St. Michael campus:

1. Recess Helper (especially Friday afternoons)
2. Special Event Helper
3. Library Helper

Contact Pastor Shawn, Mrs. Clendenen, or Mrs. Ackmann for more information.

Note: All ESM volunteers must go through a background check process.

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 of aha's you had from your reading.

As we read Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, and hear from our school theme of Connected John 15:5, we can notice how in each area of scripture we are encouraged to be about the work of Christ and His kingdom.

Colossians 4:5-6 Speaks to our behavior and interactions with those who do not yet know Jesus. What actions or inactions does this look like in your daily life?

1 Thessalonians 1:3 speaks about our "work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." Share an example of a community where you witnessed work produced by faith, a community with labor prompted by love, and a community where you witnessed endurance inspired by hope. What was it like to be a part of those communities? How can your community take further steps to be more like this?

John 15:1-7 talks about being connected and growing fruit so that others may know about Him. We pondered in the sermon this week how the branches reach out and connect with its surroundings so that the vine can be lifted up and actually bear fruit. How are you reaching out and connecting so that Jesus, the vine, can be known through you?

As you close, spend time in prayer asking God to continue to bring you into connection with the kingdom work that He is doing in, through, and around you.

SERMON NOTES