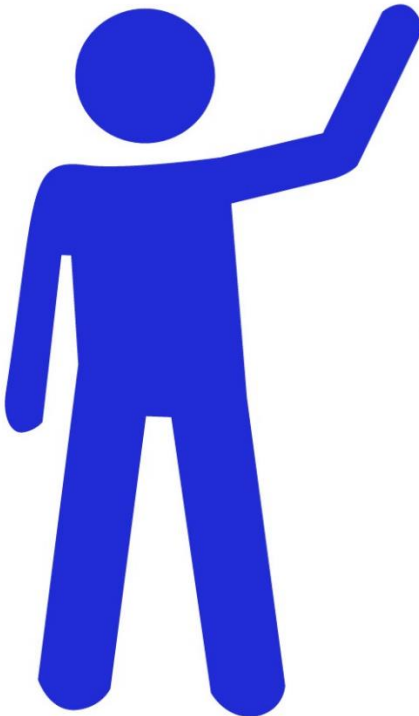


ST. MICHAEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH





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.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
"COUNT ME IN! . . . TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"
November 19, 2023

PRESERVICE

WELCOME

OPPORTUNITIES AND GREETING

Theme of the Day: Our New Testament reading this week covers 1 Peter 5 – 1 John 1. In 2 Peter 1 we hear Peter say, "make every effort to add to your faith." That is what "Becoming More Like Jesus" is all about. Jesus has made a difference in our life and because of that, God works in us to make a difference in the lives of others.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

- P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**
P: In 2 Peter we read, "Make every effort to add to your faith goodness;
C: **and to goodness, knowledge:**
P: and to knowledge, self-control;
C: **and to self-control, perseverance;**
P: and to perseverance, godliness;
C: **and to godliness, mutual affection;**
P: and to mutual affection, love.
C: **For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure,**
P: they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive
C: **in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."** (2 Peter 1:5-8)

HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns
(stanzas 1-2)

525

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM 10:45a

Bennett Lee McCoy

George Winston Lutz

Date of Birth: October 14, 2023

Date of Birth: November 13, 2023

Parents: Bryce and Abby McCoy

Parents: Thomas and Rebecca Lutz

Sponsors: Zach and Tori Chess and Corbin
and Hannah Smith

Sponsors: Benjamin and Rachel Maxwell

DOXOLOGY

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, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I 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

Crown Him with Many Crowns
(stanzas 3-5)

525

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts so that we may never forget Your blessings, but continually thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

2 Peter 1:3-11

**ANTHEM 8:00a
10:45a**

Praise to the Lord the Almighty
Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving and Praise

**Piano duet
Men's Choir**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Please pray for Veda Coe; Henry Daseler; Everett Fillmore; Killian Foos; Mikey Fulcher; Mason Gould; Christian Hupe; Michael and Clark Katt; Brecken Lane; Elliot Lyons; Erica Meyer; Charlie Mutton; Nyle Roehm; Tatum Scherer; Brooklyn Schroeder; Sawyer Sponseller; Louise Straessle; Samantha Sult; Eli Thompson; and Leland, Ethan and Emily White.

HYMN

We Praise You, O God

785

SERMON

“Count Me In! . . . To Make A Difference”

Pastor Goff

2 Peter 1:3-11

NICENE CREED 8:00a

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

PRAYERS/THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION 10:45a

Please welcome Bob and Becky Boyd; Jason, Tara, Isabelle, Chloe, Alexis, Addison Childs; Rebecca Childs; Dan, Sarah, August, and Wynnifred Dotson; Neil and Robyn Farmer; Ken and Susan Faus; Judy Herrick; Alex Lebamoff; Herb and Linda Meyer; Johannah Miesner; Craig, Stephanie and Jon Mueller; Roger and Nancy Panning; Kevin, Missy, Raelynn, Cameran, and Adrienne Rush; Danielle, Owen and Rhys Teel; and Debbie Waldick.

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

Just as I Am **570**

Beautiful Savior **537**

O Worship the King **804**

O God My Faithful God **696**

Come Holy Ghost Creator Blest **499**

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

Gracious God You Send Great Blessings

782

SILENT PRAYER

Lord, as You have blessed us, “count us in” to be a blessing to others. Amen.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

St. Michael Lutheran Church
2131 Getz Road 46804
STMFW.ORG | 432-2033
November 18/19, 2023



CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK AND MEETING

Sunday, November 19 at 5:00p in the gym

Please join us for this opportunity to fellowship and participate in the business of your church including our budget review and approval! We will also receive a recommendation to extend a call to Emma Deines as Director of Youth Ministry. Childcare is provided. Dinner is at 5:00p and the meeting will follow.

A-F bring a main dish

G-L bring a side

M-S bring a salad

T-Z bring a dessert

JOIN THE ST. MICHAEL FAMILY FOR THANKSGIVING!

St. Michael has two special Thanksgiving services: **Wednesday, November 22, at 7:00p** with instrumental music from the hand bell choirs and **Thursday, November 23, at 10:00a** with choral selections from the adult choir. Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow!

HANGING OF THE GREENS CELEBRATION

Wednesday, November 29

Join us at 5:30p in Luther Hall to make an ornament for your tree and one for St. Michael's tree! Pizza and drinks will be provided! Following at 7:00p is a special worship service which includes scripture, music, and explanation of the decorations in our sanctuary. There will also be a time during worship for kids to bring up one of their ornaments to place on the tree.

COUNT ME IN!

“Count Me In!” is our sermon series this month and our stewardship focus for 2024. You should have received a letter in the mail that included a financial pledge card. Additional cards are available in the Lobby if needed. After prayerfully considering your financial giving to the Lord through the ministry of St. Michael for 2024, please place your card (envelopes are available) in the box at the display. Also, **everyone** is asked to complete any of the other cards at the display to indicate additional ways you can connect with others as a part of St. Michael’s ministry. As you fill out the cards, place them in the box also. Let’s see the box fill up as we see the people of God at St. Michael say to each other, “Count Me In!”

SHEPHERD’S HAND SAYS THANK YOU, ST. MICHAEL!

Thank you to all of the St. Michael members who participated in and provided for events at The Shepherd's Hand Community Outreach Center this fall. We were blessed to have several members provide trunks for our Trunk or Treat/Healthfair in October. Thanks to Jana, Autumn, and Emily Peters, Cori Cable, John Hein, Gretchen Weerts, and Elizabeth and Adam Ruch for their creative trunks. Special thanks to Jean Bristol and the ladies of Lutheran Life Villages who made multiple burp clothes, hats and other items for our families visiting the health fair and helped distribute them that day. Approximately 130 families visited the center and participated in this event.

The generosity of our St. Michael members provided resources for us to meet and surpass our goal of preparing blessing bags for 25 families in our community this Thanksgiving. Your donations of \$1500 will allow us to distribute blessing bags at the Thanksgiving meal and again at our health fair in February. Thank you so much for partnering with Shepherd's Hand as we seek to fulfill our 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."

THE LUTHERAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Lutheran Foundation is now accepting Health Professions and Nursing Scholarship Applications for the 2024-2025 academic year. The scholarship awards start at \$1,000 for selected recipients. This is a broad category that encompasses undergraduate and graduate students in nursing, counseling, physical therapy, mental health, dental and medical programs, and more. Applicants of ALL denominations are encouraged to apply.

Visit <https://thelutheranfoundation.org/investing/scholarships>.

BOOK CLUB—stay tuned for meeting date and time!

This month we are reading *The Christmas Spirit* by Debbie Macomber. Contact Camille Blake at 409-9196 with questions.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Youth's Giving on Sunday, November 19 for both High School and Middle School from 4:00p-6:00p. Due to the Congregational meeting we are combining forces and doing the 1st annual Family Feud: high school vs middle school. High School team please wear Black and Middle School team wear Red. Everyone please bring a tasty appetizer or dessert to share and we will have a feast of a time together; please use the QR code so we have a variety of treats.



Next Youth Nights—December 3/December 17 (Christmas Party)

Food and Fellowship at Electric Works —Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00p
St. Michael's Youth will provide some snacks to share.

Calling all 8th grade students and parents: "Connect" is a time for 8th grade students and parents to meet with DCE Intern Emma, play games, have some snacks and get to know one another. **"Connect" will be every Tuesday from 3:00p - 5:30p at Union Street Market at Electric Works.** Our next gathering is Tuesday, 11/21.

Calling all youth: do you like donuts, cookies, and service? On Saturday, November 25 at 8:30a, youth are needed to help move totes with Christmas decorations, undecorate for fall, and help decorate the church for Christmas. Plan for any portion of 3 hours, more hands make light work. To schedule text Lisa Schaefer 409-5662 or email emma@stmfw.org. This event can be used as service hours.

PARENTS OF YOUTH FALL SEMINARS – December 3

Join Celine Newman as she talks about a variety of subjects focusing on sharing faith with your students. Middle School and High School parents: join us from 5:00p-6:00p in Luther Hall.

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. Discover that the wisdom of the Bible is relevant to every age.

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.

REDEMPTION HOUSE UPDATE

We will provide a meal at Wayne Street on December 17 and Fairfield Avenue on December 17. Contact Candi Luchnenko to provide a dish at 422-2061. Please join us for our Holiday Open House on November 30 from 5:00p-8:00p at our Wayne Street House! You are also welcome to St. Michael on Sunday, December 3 at 4:00p, as we host the graduation for three ladies from the Redemption House. **Come and be a part of this celebration!**

J.O.Y. GROUP—Thursday, December 14 at 12:00p

Begin your Christmas festivities with enjoying Christian fellowship, a catered Christmas buffet by Goeglein's, songs by our ESM children's choir and special music by Jubilant Fields. All that and a Christmas carol sing-a-long! RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by November 30. Cost: \$20.00. Reserve your spot by completing the form in the lobby and returning it to the office with your CHECK made out to St. Michael Lutheran Church (reference JOY Christmas on the memo line). Questions - call Penny Pequignot at 580-8730 or Janet Maxson at 438-7442.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF INDIANA (LSSI)

The Cup of Kindness Program, through referrals from social-service agencies and Lutheran congregations, 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.

CHRIST CHILD FESTIVAL

A wonderful Christ-centered tradition continues this year with the Christ Child Festival: Christmas in the Library! Last year, more than 500 children and parents attended, and plans are in place to welcome an even larger turnout on the eve of Thanksgiving during the Festival of Lights, and on the day following Thanksgiving. This year's event will center around the Crimson Thread of Redemption ... A seven-part Christmas Journey display from the Garden of Eden through our Savior's second coming! ... including themed crafts! The Christ Child Festival keeps Christ in Christmas! Be blessed ... and be a blessing!

CADETS IN CADENCE DINNER AUCTION—Saturday, December 2

This year's theme is White Diamond Christmas Gala! Come enjoy live musical entertainment, cocktails and dinner along with a live auction, dessert auction and a paddle raise. This has been a sold out event the last 2 years so make sure to purchase your tickets soon by going online to cadetsincadence.com.

CHRISTMAS AT THE EMBASSY—December 10 at 4:00p

“The Savior Reigns: Repeat the Sounding Joy!” will showcase the talents of CLHS music department students with choral, instrumental and orchestral music. Tickets are now on sale at the Embassy Box Office and Ticketmaster. Tickets are \$12 for students/seniors and \$18 for general admission.

CHRISTMAS TREES FROM HAPPY GOAT TREE FARM

Owned by congregational members, Loren and Lisa Schaefer, this farm is located at 7602 Butt Road. Visit their farm and animal friends, and choose from pre-cut trees and wreaths. After your purchase enjoy a complimentary hot cocoa and trivia trail. Opening day is Black Friday at 10:00a. Visit their website www.happygoatchristmastreefarm.com or Facebook at Happy Goat Christmas Tree Farm.

HOLIDAY HELP CENTER FOR THE GRIEVING

The holiday season can be especially difficult when grieving the loss of a loved one. GriefShare has created a Holiday Help Center to help grieving people cope with the many emotions they will face during the holidays. It also provides practical tips for surviving social events and establishing new holiday traditions.

Visit <https://www.holidays.griefshare.org/blog>.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP * Also available via livestream

Wednesday, December 6 7:00p*

Advent Service at St. Michael

Wednesday, December 13 7:00p

All are welcome to attend the Vespers Service, presented by ESM preschool-eighth grade students, at University of St. Francis Performing Arts Center at 431 W. Berry St.

Saturday, December 16 5:00p*

Sunday School Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 20 and Saturday December 23/No Services

Sunday, December 24 / Christmas Eve Services

Worship with lessons and carols 10:00a

Family Candlelight Worship with carols 5:00p

Candlelight Worship with choir, bells and orchestra 7:00p*

Candlelight Worship with choir, bells, orchestra and Holy Communion 11:00p

Monday, December 25 / Christmas Day

Festival Worship with Holy Communion 10:00a*

Saturday, December 30 5:00p

Sunday, December 31 / New Year's Eve 10:00a*

COUNT ME IN! . . . TO WORSHIP

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Saturday, November 11 | 166 |
| Sunday, November 12 | 401 |
| Sunday Livestream | 91 |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK November 20-26

Monday, November 20

8:00a Mom's Bible Study
3:45p Grace Notes
6:00p Harmony Ringers
6:45p BSF Young Adults
7:00p Parables of Jesus Bible Study
7:00p Men's Bible Study/Jones
7:00p Resound Rehearsal
(Advanced Grade 8-adult)

Tuesday, November 21

1:00 Purls
1:00p JOY Bible Study
7:00p Praise Teams Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 22

10:30p Men's Bible Study
7:00p Thanksgiving Worship
7:00p Dart Ball

Thursday, November 23

10:00a Thanksgiving Worship

Friday, November 24

8:00p Men's Basketball

Saturday, November 25

8:00a Decorating
5:00p Worship

Sunday, November 26

8:00a and 10:45a Worship

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

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.

- **November Milestone Birthdays:** Connie Easterday, 11/7, 81; Martha Seidel, 11/7, 89; Jerry Pieper, 11/12, 82; Pat Armstrong, 11/19, 83; Willie Biddle, 11/19, 83; Carol Sims, 11/20, 82; Annie Eckrich, 11/24, 88; and Edie Bearman, 11/28, 89.
- **Altar Flowers:** Our altar flowers are given this weekend by Cassie Swartz in honor of her mother Pat Armstrong's birthday. Thank you and God's blessings to your family!
- **Pray for:**
 - Randy Lafrentz who is having a kidney biopsy on Thursday
 - Marriages to be strengthened and tied closer to God
 - The man who had to make the decision to remove life support from his wife. Pray for him and their 9-month-old child.
 - Michelle and all who are suffering through divorce proceedings.
 - Blessings upon Chris and Heather Doust and their recent marriage
 - Sue Doepner, who is struggling with chemo treatments and the side effects.
 - The family of Dave Runyan, brother-in-law to Al Claus; the family of Josh Jank; and the family of Gus Geisenhof, brother to Marilyn Barlow, who died this last week.
 - Continued prayers for Mason, Jacob (nephew of Dennis and Lynnette Brink), Dennis Brink, Otis Vincent, Stephanie Weaver, Amber Afarin, Don and Kathy Magner

SERVING AT ST. MICHAEL this weekend

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

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Greeters: | Mike and Jo Sienk; Greg and Renee Starke (5p) David and Kathryn Trinklein; Christie Gerken (8a) St. Michael Youth (10:45a) |
| Lay Readers: | Mary Leininger (5p); Gretchen Weerts (8a); Randy Fillmore (10:45a) |
| Children's Church: | Emma Latin (10:45a) |
| Acolytes: | Ellianna Butler (5p); Emilia Yoder (8a); Adelaide Davis (10:45a) |
| Information Desk: | Celine Newman (5p); Gretchen Weerts (8a) Jenny Hendrickson (10:45a) |
| Ushers: | Andrea Tarbet; Dave and Myra Atkinson (5p); Lynn Sackschewsky, John Gerken (8a) Dave Crow (10:45a) |



Reading through the New Testament—Week 46

November 19-25

Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

This week we finish reading 1 Peter (chapter 5) and move into 2 Peter and the first chapter of 1 John. As mentioned last week, the author of 1 and 2 Peter is the apostle Peter. Along with being an apostle, he further identifies himself as an eyewitness of the transfiguration and a close associate of the apostle Paul (3:15).

While 2 Peter is a short letter, there are basically four areas of concern covered by this letter: sanctification (growing in our life of faith), Scripture, warnings against false teachers, and the end of the age.

First, Peter begins and ends his letter by encouraging growth in our Christian walk. He assures his readers that God has given us everything needed for life (1:3). He then lists virtues that will promote growth – goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (1:5-8).

Second, Peter wants to assure his readers that what God promised through the prophets, spoken through His word, and taught through His apostles, is true. Peter assures his readers that prophecy is not a human invention, but “men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (1:21).






Third, Peter warns of the false teachers and doctrines that will arise (2:1-21). These people will be false, destructive, shameful, greedy, arrogant, blasphemous, boastful, and sinful. And yet, God obviously knows how to rescue His people from this.

Fourth, Peter wants to clarify the meaning of the end of the age. As he does, we must remember that time is different for God than it is for us – a thousand years is only as one day with God, so the delay hasn’t been all that long from God’s point of view (3:3-8). Therefore, Peter encourages patience as we wait for the Lord’s return. Just like all the other New Testament books we have read, we encourage you to check out the brief overview of 1 and 2 Peter from The Bible Project:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-peter/> and <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/2-peter/>.

New Testament in a Year—November 19-25

1Peter/2Peter/1John

Chapter 5  1  2  3  1 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

1 Peter 5 | Read especially vv. 8-11. What area of your life would you like God to restore and make you strong, firm, and steadfast?

2 Peter 1 | What seven qualities are we to desire (vv. 5-9)? How does each fit with the one mentioned before it?

2 Peter 2 | What does Peter say in this chapter about false prophets?

2 Peter 3 | How is God's patience with His people of benefit (vv. 9, 15)?

1 John 1 | The words of vv. 5-10 are often used as a part of the "Confession and Forgiveness" portion of our worship service. Read through these words now and meditate on what they are saying. How can these words be even more personally meaningful to you when spoken in worship?

Blessing the World

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 2 Peter 1:5-7

These characteristics that Peter urges fellow believers to add to their faith are connected to loving our neighbor as ourselves as they give guidance as to how we are to live within our community. As you look at the list of characteristics, which do you the easiest to live out in your season of life? Think about your neighborhood, what does it look like to exemplify these characteristics with your neighbors? List two places in your neighborhood where you can have interactions with neighbors and live out these characteristics.

- 1.
- 2.

Pray: Jesus, help me be your hands and feet in these places over this next month. Grant me: faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. In order that others would see you through me and want to be connected to your grace and mercy. Amen.

Belonging in Community

To make a difference is to cause change for the better. As Christians we are commissioned by Jesus to go make a difference in the world by first obeying Him then by sharing our reason for what we do. There are many lists like the one in 2 Peter 1:5-8. Lists and flows that instruct us how to grow in being a difference maker. These lists often center around making habits of the way of life that Jesus teaches us to live. Below are some habits that we encourage everyone to practice. And we say practice with the purpose of reminding ourselves that this is not a "box to check" but something that we will have to work on each and every day...with the reminder that practicing these will "keep you from being ineffective and unproductive." (2 Peter 1:8) As you take a look at the habits below, discuss with each other how you are doing in the habit and identify 2 or three habits that you can focus on developing in the next season of your life.

H Have a dedicated time with God by reading His Word

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer . . . every day they continued to meet together." (Acts 2:42, 46)

- Select a time in the day that can be regular
- Scripture reading
- Observation
- Application

A Attend church (Worship, Means of Grace)

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together . . . and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

- Celebration
- Inspiration
- Preparation
- Salvation

B Be generous

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

- Giving models God's actions towards us
- Giving strengthens my faith

I Invest in healthy relationships

"Two are better than one . . . if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

- Spiritual growth
- Social
- Encouraging
- Serving

T Tell your story

"Always be prepared to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15)

- Know your story
- Be open to opportunities to share your faith

S Serve others

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom of many." (Matthew 20:28)

- Jesus modeled serving
- Serving builds up the body of Christ

THIS WEEKEND'S SERMON OUTLINE

"Count Me In! . . . To Make a Difference"

2 Peter 1:3-11

It starts with a foundation . . .

Your faith is c_____

"³His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these **He has given us His very great and precious promises**, so that through them **you may participate in the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

"⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith . . ."

G_____

K_____

S_____ - _____

P_____

G_____

M_____ A_____

L_____

This is not about a r_____, it's a r_____.

Christianity isn't a _____, it's a _____.

"¹⁰Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, **you will never stumble** . . ."

St. Michael Lutheran Church: **B_____ More Like Jesus!**

Belonging to His Church

Blessing His World

Count Me In! . . . To Make a Difference