

Christ the King





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.

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
November 26, 2023

PRESERVICE 10:45a

Luther's Morning Prayer

Flute Choir

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES

Theme of the Day: Our New Testament reading this week covers 1 John 2-2 John. Our First Reading today will come from a section of that reading, 1 John 4:7-21. However, this Sunday is also recognized as the Last Sunday in the Church Year (Advent begins next Sunday) or "Christ the King Sunday." Our guest preacher this weekend will lean into the theme of "Christ the King" as we remember the second coming of our Lord who is King of kings and Lord of lords.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP (1 John 2:12-14)

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

C: **Amen.**

P: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

C: **Blessed is the King of Israel!"** (John 12:13)

P: Lift up your heads,

C: **that the King of glory may come in.** (Psalm 24:9)

P: For the LORD Most High is awesome,

C: **the great King over all the earth.** (Psalm 47:2)

P: God is my King from long ago;

C: **He brings salvation on the earth.** (Psalm 74:12)

P: For the LORD is the great God,

C: **the great King above all gods.** (Psalm 95:3)

P: I will exalt you, my God the King;

C: **I will praise Your name forever and ever.** (Psalm 145:1)

P: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

C: **Blessed is the King of Israel!"** (John 12:13)

HYMN

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns
(stanzas 1-3)

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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.** (1 John 1:8-9)

(silence for personal confession and self-reflection)

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

C: Most merciful God, I confess to You that by nature I am 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

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns
(stanzas 4-5)

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: O Lord, our God, we acknowledge You to be King of kings and Lord of lords as we await Your great return. Until that day, inscribe Your Word on our hearts, and equip us to serve You with holy and blameless lives. May each day remind us of the coming of the night when no one can work. Keep us united to You with a living faith by the power of Your Holy Spirit with Him who is the resurrection and the life, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

1 John 4:7-21

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

Savior of the Nations Come
Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending

**Women's Choir
Flute Choir**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:1-13

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

Wake Awake for Night Is Flying
(stanzas 1-3)

516

SERMON

"On the Way to Paradise"
Matthew 25:1-13

Pastor Dan May

APOSTLES' CREED 8:00a/NICENE CREED 10:45a

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY 8:00a
10:45a**

A Celtic Silent Night
Precious Lord Take My Hand

**Women's Choir
Flute Choir**

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

Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed	560
O Jesus King Most Wonderful	554
Rejoice, Rejoice Believers	515
My Faith Looks Up to Thee	702
Prepare the Royal Highway	343

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

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
(stanzas 1, 5, 6, 7)

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SILENT PRAYER

Dear Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, continue to rule and reign in my life until that last and final 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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

St. Michael Lutheran Church
2131 Getz Road 46804
STMFW.ORG | 432-2033
November 25/26, 2023



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.

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 and puppets 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*

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

This year we will once again bless families in our community and The Redemption House through the Christmas Giving Tree. This year as you look at the Christmas Giving Trees you will see tags for:

- \$25 gift cards to stores (Meijer, Target)
- family daily needs (toilet paper, paper products, laundry soap)
- twin sheet sets
- twin mattresses

Our goal is to support 14 families and help the Redemption House with at least 15 new mattresses. We will also hang tags for:

- two \$25 gift cards to Target, Meijer, and Kohls (stores with clothes and toys) per family member

All items need to be returned by Tuesday, December 12. If you have questions, contact Robin Kaiser at rrkaiser@hotmail.com or Pastor Shawn at pastordavis@stmfw.org.

COUNT ME IN!

Cards and financial pledges continue to be added to the "Count Me In!" box in the welcome center. If you haven't turned yours in yet, you still have time. Please bring your financial pledge card and any other cards by next weekend, Dec. 2-3. Thank you for your response!

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."

LUTHERAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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>.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH—December 3/17 (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 LUTERHAVEN 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.

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.

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

Celebrate the holiday season with Concordia Lutheran High School’s annual Christmas at the Embassy. “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 CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Concordia Lutheran Church Men’s Club will once again be selling Christmas trees and wreaths this year to help fund the church and school. The tree lot is located at the Church-School, 4245 Lake Avenue. The lot will be open 2:00p to 8:00p weekdays, 9:00a to 8:00p Saturdays, and 12:00p to 8:00p Sundays. Thank you!

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>.

COUNT ME IN! . . . TO WORSHIP

Saturday, November 18 **139**

Sunday, November 19 **415**

Sunday Livestream **83**

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER AND MEETING RECAP

We are thankful for the 100 people who attended the congregation meeting last Sunday. The food was amazing! The fellowship was heart-warming! And the meeting was affirming for St. Michael's ministry. Here are a few highlights from the meeting:

- Pastor Goff updated us on the status of some organizational priorities. (More detail will be shared in the December newsletter.)
- Pastor Goff and Pastor Davis had a Q and A time on the realignment of Pastor Davis' call focusing more intentionally on young adult ministry in 2024.
- ESM Principal, Dr. Ben Stellwagen, offered a state of the school including record enrollment this year for ESM – 448 students.
- A current financial update was given by Treasurer, Brent Panning and Financial Secretary, Joe Lees. YTD financials show \$49,000 behind budget in the first ten months of the year, but an increase in giving of \$139,000 over last year.
- A ministry budget was presented and approved for 2024.
- Craig Patterson, chairman of the Elders, introduced a "Call" recommendation to Emma Dienes as Director of Youth Ministry. Craig summarized the status of youth ministry over the last 5 years and what has brought us to the point of extending this call. The call was unanimously approved. Emma will give her official response to the call in the coming weeks.

Thank you for the spirit of unity in ministry exhibited at the meeting!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK November 27-3

Monday, November 27

3:45p Grace Notes
6:00p Harmony Ringers
6:45p BSF Young Adults
7:00p Resound Rehearsal
(Advanced Grade 8-adult)

Tuesday, November 28

7:00p Praise Teams Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 29

9:15 Coffee Break
10:30p Men's Bible Study
6:00p Women's Choir
6:30p Adult Choir
7:00p Hanging of the Greens Worship
8:00p Adult Choir

Thursday, November 30

6:30p Orchestra Rehearsal
7:00p Jubilant Fields Rehearsal
8:00p Faith and Friends Bible Study

Friday, December 1

8:00p Men's Basketball

Saturday, December 2

5:00p Worship

Sunday, December 3

8:00a and 10:45a Worship

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 John and Carol Olry.
- **Pray for:**
 - All who are traveling for the Thanksgiving week.
 - Neil Swartz who had knee surgery on Monday. Pray for complete healing and minimal pain.
 - Family healing for the Eaton family; Carolyn's health; her mother, Dorothy Smith; and for all to be humble and repentant.
 - God's people, that he help, protect, strengthen, forgive and love them.
 - Continued prayers for Sue Doepner, Mason Leininger, 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:	TBD (5p); TBD (8a) Matt and Melyssa Lennington (10:45a)
Lay Readers:	Adam Hahn (5p); Jessica Krauter (8a); Keri Latin (10:45a)
Children's Church:	Helene and Naomi Hendrickson (10:45a)
Acolytes:	William Biggs (5p); Jaden Hoover (8a); Maggie Evans (10:45a)
Information Desk:	TBD (5p); TBD (8a) Jan Fillmore (10:45a)
Ushers:	Dave and Myra Atkinson (5p); Lynn Sackschewsky, John Gerken (8a) Dave Crow, Karen Hall (10:45a)



Reading through the New Testament—Week 47

November 26-December 2

Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

There are three letters in the New Testament that have been associated with the apostle John, who also wrote the Gospel of John. Remember, John was the son of Zebedee, a wealthy fisherman, and his mother was Salome who also accompanied Jesus on some of His travels. John’s brother was James. He later was called to be one of Jesus’ twelve disciples (Mk 3:13-19).




Together with Peter and James, John was a part of an inner circle of apostles. At the crucifixion, John accepted responsibility for Mary, the mother of Jesus (Jn 19:26-27). He was one of the first to see the empty tomb (Jn 20:1-8) and to witness the risen Christ, first in a locked room (Jn 20:19-28) and later by the Sea of Galilee (Jn 21:1-24). Later on, John was banished to the island of Patmos where he received the visions that are recorded in the book of Revelation.

In this first letter, John mentions several times his purpose for writing it. For instance, he says he is writing so that our joy may be full in the knowledge that Jesus is the Son of God who appeared in the flesh (1:4). Secondly, he says he is writing so that we will not sin (2:1). Third, John emphasizes a new commandment (which is not actually “new”) to love one another. And finally, he says he is writing to assure his readers of their victory in Christ and of the certainty of their salvation (5:13). Our salvation is sure because “the one that is in you is greater than the one that is in the world” (4:4). The world cannot defeat us because “everyone born of God has overcome the world” (5:4).

Check out The Bible Project video on 1, 2, 3 John:
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-3-john/>.

New Testament in a Year—November 26-December 2

1John/2John

Chapter 2  3  4  5  1 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

1 John 2 | Reflect on the reasons John says he is writing in vv. 12-14.

1 John 3 | Reflect on vv. 11-24. What does it mean to “love one another”?

1 John 4 | “Love” is mentioned 27 times in vv. 7-21. What do you learn about love here?

1 John 5 | Using the concepts of belief, love, obedience, and life (5:1-12) – how would you explain to someone what being a Christian is all about?

2 John | This short letter is just one chapter. Here John emphasizes much of the same that we read in 1 John, however he underscores the necessity of walking in love, repeating the statement that there is no new command but one Christians have had from the beginning (vv. 5-6). We are to reject those who reject the teaching of Christ.

Blessing the World

You will be my witnesses... Acts 1:8

This week we were blessed to celebrate a day of thankfulness. Oftentimes, it is a day to remember family, and friends, and how God has blessed us along the way, our Ebenezer moments (Samuel 10:12). This week, make a list of 5 things that you are thankful for in your community and pray for those people and places as you walk or drive by them.

See parish notes page 6 for information on our Christmas Giving Tree and ways that you can be Jesus' hands and feet to community families and the women at the Redemption House!

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.

In our reading this week we are in the letters of 1 and 2 John. These letters contain a lot about living in love. Depending on your translation it is used approximately 31 times in these two books. That is more than the Song of Songs! Take some time to go through the books and on a shared piece of paper make notes about what John has to teach us about love and God. (This could be in list format, or in clusters, or any way your group would like to write these out.)

- As you look at all the words connected to and surrounding love what do you notice?

One word that we don't often associate with love but Jesus and the authors of scripture do is the word "obey."

Take a look at the words you have shared and think about what characteristic of loving God you can practice more as an act of obedience (a.k.a. love) to Him. What would that look like in your life? Take some time to share with each other.

Close in prayer.

SERMON NOTES