



# FEBRUARY news

## GIVE THANKS...LIVE THANKS!

There are two short words that, when they come together, are very powerful: THANK YOU!

It's too bad that we often leave the positive power of this expression untapped. Too often we take people for granted and leave unsaid what we think the other person knows. That's not only too bad, it's not right.

I've often noticed—but it has hit home again recently—how our grandchildren say, "Thank you." They say it often. Un-coached. Regularly. Sincerely. I'm not only happily impressed but moved by this and how it has become a basic part of their interactions and their hearts. It reminds me how important it is for all of us to respond this way.

What a easy way to model grateful behavior! It makes an imprint when others hear these words and see their effects. It makes a difference. People watch and listen and, consciously or not, an impression is made that works its way into their attitude and behavior. When we were little, most of us were taught by our parents to say, "Please" and "Thank you." No doubt, this teaching made a difference, and even more so if we had parents and others around us saying, "Thank you."

"Thank you" rubs off; what we hear from those around us rubs off on us. I've noticed that when people are around fellow workers, for example, who have a foul mouth and often use God's name in vain, that they begin to talk this way—a little, or after time a lot. Good, wholesome talk also rubs off, and that's the kind of thing we can make happen.

We have so much to be thankful for and to express it is a great thing. It makes a difference. It brings out and re-enforces good in other people. It feels good to both parties.

The Bible encourages us to give thanks to God and to others.

Ephesians 5:20     ...Always give thanks to God the Father for everything...

Philippians 4:6     ...but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:19   Give thanks in all circumstances.

These aren't just commands; they are reminders and encouragements to say the words "Thank you" but also to live thanks. Give thanks and live thanks. This changes people, starting with ourselves. I think that these two words are very powerful, most appreciated, and transformative. Speaking them is one of the best expressions coming from our hearts and through our mouths.

### **SPECIAL THANKS!**

This month, we not only say "Thanks" but also "Goodbye" to Pastor Don Sandmann. Gratefully, but not forever, it's only "Goodbye" from St. Michael and his ministry here. He's been Assistant to the Pastor/Visitation Pastor among us for five years, but he's been led to step away from this important ministry. He's visited our sick, the homebound and those in care facilities, and he's done it from his heart and done it very well. He's also done funerals, assisted in our worship, and various other things. We have a lot to thank him for. We do so here, and we'll do so at weekend worship at month's end. I encourage you to thank him personally. If you've read what's previously written here, you'll understand the positive impact that will make. Thank you, Pastor Don Sandmann!

On a related note, Pastor Mark Neubacher from Holy Cross will step into these duties.

He is retired from full-time ministry but continues part-time in a big way with that congregation's Care Ministry. In due time, we'll welcome him!



## THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR SHAWN



Over the past few months, you may have heard me mention my new adventure! Coaching has become part of my conversations with many of you. Beginning in September of last year, I started a journey to become credentialed as a life coach. You can learn more about the process I'm pursuing at <https://coachingfederation.org/credentials-and-standards>.

A life coach is someone who helps individuals move forward in processing through something in their life. It can be as simple as filling out an application to more difficult life decisions such as a career change. Through all of life's transitions, a coach can help by asking questions to help progress someone in their journey.



Throughout 2021, I had the privilege of meeting with a coach once a month. The coach helped me process through time management, prioritizing, and pastoral counseling. As I talked with my coach, I realized that many of my conversations with people were coaching conversations. Therefore, I made the decision to get further educated in the coaching process, which will enable me to be credentialed by the International Coaching Federation.

So far, in my journey, I have taken courses on the foundations of coaching, coach for spiritual growth, and I am in a mentor coach group.

If you would like to know more or would like to learn what it's like to be coached, let me know or sign up for a time to connect with me by going to [calendly.com/pastor\\_shawn](https://calendly.com/pastor_shawn).




**Diaper Drive**  
**now-**  
**February 14**  
sizes 3, 4, 5  
appreciated!

**Support A Hope Center and Shepherds Hand Center Community Outreach**

### Life Team Diaper Drive

Show the community we care by bringing in diapers for our partners in ministry!

# NEWS FROM STEPHANIE

 *I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace. Philippians 1:3-7*

*I can relate to Paul's words to the Philippians as I think about the past **25 years of ministry** (yes, that seems unbelievable!!!) at St. Michael. First I am so thankful for the support and encouragement I felt from my very first interview to be the choir director at St. Michael. I felt unqualified and young, but the committee had faith in me and gave me an amazing opportunity to do something I love.*

*God has blessed St. Michael with so many talented and servant-hearted musicians. What a joy to be able to work together, stretched to try new things, as together we combine talents and gifts to give all the glory to our Lord and Savior! We are definitely partners in proclaiming the gospel!*

*Finally, I hold you in my heart for we are all partakers of grace. This is what the family of God does. We love, forgive and treasure each other. I love to worship with my St. Michael family. You are the best, and I will forever hold you in my heart!*

*Love, Stephanie*

## ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS START MARCH 10!

Mark your calendar now to join our orchestra as we rehearse for **Easter and Confirmation!** Rehearsals will be Thursday at 6:00p in the sanctuary on March 10, 17, 24, and Wednesday, March 30, at 7:45p. You can request a packet of music (hymns and songs to accompany the choir) by contacting our music director, Stephanie Maxson, at [stephanie@stmfw.org](mailto:stephanie@stmfw.org). Thanks for passing this information on to instrumentalists you know!



## LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES START ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Ash Wednesday services will be at 1:00p and 7:00p. Both services will have ashes and communion as we worship the Lord and prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the season of Lent. Midweek services will continue each Wednesday at 7:00p through April 6. You can also attend the services via live stream.

## ACADEMY CLASSES



Did you know that over half of St. Michael Academy students are not members of our church! Along with offering opportunities for students to share music in our worship services, our students are sharing music with their families and other churches in the area. To God be the glory as we encourage and equip the next generation of musicians!

### Saturday Band Line-up

February 5	King's Strings
February 12	Life Song
February 19	King's Strings
February 26	Life Song

### Vocal Groups (meet in the sanctuary)

Men's Choir (TTBB)	Wednesday 6:30p-7:00p
Women's Choir (SSA)	Wednesday 6:30p-7:00p
Adult Choir (SATB)	Wednesday 7:00p-8:00p

### Bell Groups (meet in the sanctuary)

Harmony Ringers (high school - adult)	Monday 6:00p-7:00p
Resound (high school - adult)	Monday 7:00p-8:00p

### Instrumental Groups

Orchestra	Thursday 6:45p-7:45p
Flute Choir	Sunday 9:00a-9:30a



# THOUGHTS FROM CELINE

Welcome to February! Here's a fun fact—this month, we will be able to celebrate twosday. You read that right. 2/2/22 will be on a Tuesday or as I will be calling it twosday! There are a few other commemoration days and events happening this month: The Winter Olympics, several other big games in sports, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, possibly even an anniversary or birthday! Why mention this? These are great opportunities for us to live out our spiritual practice for the month of February—**COMMUNITY**.

Not that we need a special reason to gather...community is good anytime! It's something we have been missing out on. The practice of separation has been heightened for the past couple of years. The divisiveness in public opinion has an ever-growing presence, and a surge in online connection is taking more and more time in our relationships. However, this problem is not just a recent phenomenon. In his book "Bowling Alone," Robert Putnam points out that the decline of community that we are experiencing is seen in every kind of community for decades. Reports of loneliness and lack of connection continue to rise, and we don't need a study to point out the evidence and the cost that is all around us.

Community is a group of people who 1) live in the same area 2) have the same interest. Living in community is allowing those in our community access to us...sharing of our thoughts and feelings and making room for the other with our time and our space.



In his ministry, Jesus consistently took time to be in community with people, and he intentionally shared their space. In his most intimate community of 12 disciples, he shared his deepest thoughts and feelings. He made friends, he ate meals, he prayed with others, he went to parties. This wasn't just Jesus being Jesus. It shows us how to live as God designed—in community.

One thing I want us all to hear is **keep trying**. I know the disappointment of working hard to schedule a gathering, and then hear that the guest list has been cut in half because of people who are isolating or in quarantine. This is not a prompt to forgo healthy precaution and practices, but it is an encouragement to keep scheduling things. Commit to being with people, and when that changes, reschedule. Being with others is a part of God's design, and it is important.

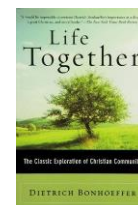
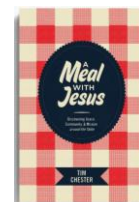
**In the spirit of embracing community as a spiritual practice, here is a suggestion for this month:**

- **Choose a community that you belong to. This can be a Bible study group, another small group at church, your work team, a group of friends, your neighbors, your family, etc.**
- **Contemplate these questions: What can I do to deepen my relationships, even just a little bit? What can I do to brighten someone's day? How can I love more? How can I be more authentic? How can I intentionally engage in this community again?**
- **Choose one or two of the answers that come up for you, and go do it.**

A couple books teaching about community:

<https://www.crossway.org/books/a-meal-with-jesus-tpb/>

<https://www.christianbook.com/life-together-classic-exploration-christian-community/dietrich-bonhoeffer/9780060608521/pd/7153?event=PPCSRC>



# BELONG

## BOOK CLUB

Book club will meet the third Thursday of the month (February 17) in the conference room. February's selection is *The Wish* by Nicholas Sparks. Happy reading!



## J.O.Y. GROUP

### FEBRUARY 10

Join us at noon in Luther Hall for GAME DAY! Enjoy our card BINGO with prizes!

**Bring:** your own lunch, your favorite game and cards, books and puzzles to exchange.

Your J.O.Y. Committee will be providing desserts just for YOU!

### FEBRUARY 22

Join us 10:00a in Luther Hall for Bible study with Celine Newman!

Coffee and treats are provided! Just bring yourself and your Bible!



## COFFEE BREAK WOMEN'S STUDY—



New members welcome! We will meet from 9:15a-10:45a in Luther Hall to continue our study of "Rediscover Jesus" as well as color postcards for shut-ins. We will meet every second and fourth Wednesday. Please contact Janet Olson at [jmo11434@gmail.com](mailto:jmo11434@gmail.com) for information.

## PRAYING FOR OUR NATION—February 2/16

Join us at 1:30p in the Lobby as we pray for our leaders and our nation. We will meet regularly on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Please connect with Christine Harrison to engage in this ministry ([charrison75@comcast.net](mailto:charrison75@comcast.net)).

## PURLS—February 1/15



This fun group meets from 1:00p-3:00p on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Everyone who knits, crochets or wants to learn is welcome to join! The St. Michael PURLS knit and crochet shawls that are available to give to a person who is ill, suffering a loss, or in the midst of a life crisis. What a great way to reach out to those hurting or in need of a special blessing of God's warmth and comfort when you are not physically present. A supply of shawls is available in the narthex for members to take and present to someone in need. Questions can be directed to Pat Armstrong through the church office.

## LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

The mission of St. Michael's Lutherans for Life (LFL) Team is to equip our Church to be a gospel-driven champion of life from conception to natural death. For more information, contact Dennis Brink at 238-4046 or [Dennis.Brink@att.net](mailto:Dennis.Brink@att.net).

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which one person reaches out to another in a time of crisis. It is a ministry grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Stephen Ministry equips members of a congregation with the skills, knowledge, and spiritual support to provide distinctively Christian care to those who are hurting. To request care from a Stephen Minister or find out more about Stephen Ministry at St. Michael, contact Linda Kraus at 446-4347.

# EMMANUEL-ST. MICHAEL

## IN ALL GENERATIONS

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Psalm 90*

For nearly 155 years, one of the most powerful and enduring ministries of Emmanuel and St. Michael churches has been our school. Each day, almost 400 students hear about the love of Jesus through ESM, and our congregations understand well the generational calling God has given through this amazing ministry. In 2022, Emmanuel will begin a long-needed process to renovate and improve the Union Street school building. Check out the renderings of some of the proposed renovations at [Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Campaign Overview](#).

## ESM PRINCIPAL CALL

Dr. Ben Stellwagen Accepts Divine Call: It is with great joy that the Interparish School Board of Emmanuel - St. Michael Lutheran School announces that Dr. Benjamin Stellwagen has accepted the divine Call to serve as Principal at ESM. In every way, God has guided and directed this process. Thank you to our entire school and church community for lifting Ben and his family in prayer and for your continued support of our school ministry.

### KINDERGARTEN Information and Enrollment Sessions:

Wednesday, February 16

6:30p - 8:00p | Getz Road Campus - 2131 Getz Road

### PRESCHOOL Information and Enrollment Sessions:

Tuesday, February 1 | Getz Road Campus - 2131 Getz Road

Thursday, February 3 | Union Street Campus - 1123 Union Street

6:30p - 7:30p

Information session for parents

Register at [www.esmeagles.com](http://www.esmeagles.com). Questions? Contact Erin Clark, director of admissions at 422-6712 or [eclark@esmeagles.com](mailto:eclark@esmeagles.com)

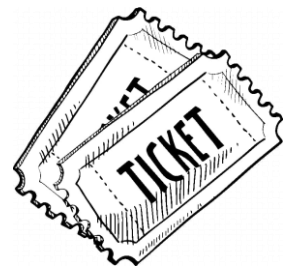
### Now Enrolling for 2022-23 School Year:

EMMANUEL-ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL, in partnership with our churches and families, is raising up the next generation of students who know the love of Christ! Schedule a visit today! Contact Erin Clark, Director of Admissions | 260.422.6712 | [eclark@esmeagles.com](mailto:eclark@esmeagles.com) | [www.esmeagles.com](http://www.esmeagles.com).

## CLHS

### COME AND SEE "JOSEPH" AT CLHS

Join CLHS for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on February 25/26 at 7:30p and February 27 at 2:00p. One of the most enduring shows of all time, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is the Biblical story of Joseph, his father Jacob, eleven brothers and the coat of many colors. Preorder tickets at <https://www.clhscadets.com/apps/pages/theatre-productions>. ESM's Adelaide and Elsie Davis, Owen Smith and Lucy Moll are cast members!



# YOUTH



Our youth continue to work towards building community, connecting to our congregation and raising funds as we prepare to attend the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas this July. Check out the bulletin board next to Pastor Karl's office to see our progress and check out our upcoming fundraiser events to see how you can support us!

## YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS/FUNDRAISER FOR NYG

If you have a project and need a helping hand, please contact [stephanie@stmfw.org](mailto:stephanie@stmfw.org)!

## PARENT'S NIGHT OUT—Friday, February 11 from 5:00p-9:00p

Sign up at [stmfw.org/events](http://stmfw.org/events)! Cost is \$20 per child, age 2 and up. Dinner and a craft are provided! Proceeds benefit the youth attending the National Youth Gathering in Houston.

**February 13th at 6:00p** (Luther Hall) Parent and participant meeting to update hotel and travel information.



## YOUTH NIGHTS IN FEBRUARY

High school youth only (grades 9-12)	February 13	6:00p-8:00p
Middle (grades 6-8) and high school youth	February 27	4:00p-8:00p
Bible Study / Luther Hall led by NYG students	February 27	5:30p

## CONFIRMATION

This month, we continue the tradition of having Eighth Grade Confirmands give personal accounts of how impactful their confirmation verse is on their lives. This endeavor can be daunting for many students. If you are in a service where a confirmation testimony is given, please take a minute to encourage that student after worship.

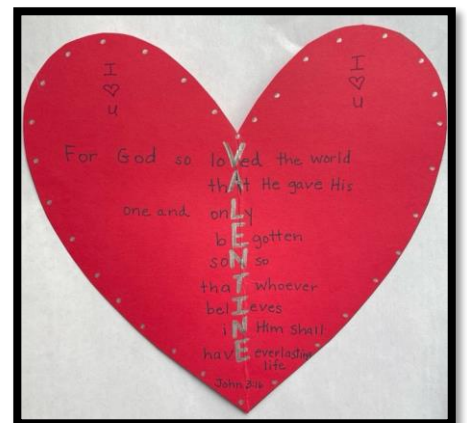
### Key Teaching: Baptism and Communion

We will meet on Sundays at 9:30a on February 6 / 13 / 20 / 27. We will meet on zoom on February 7 / 21.

## FAMILY MINISTRY FROM CARRIE

Do you love your family? Of course you do! Do you tell them on a regular basis beyond the quick *I love you* on the way out the door or at bedtime? Do your children know what it is you love about them? Does your spouse? Do they know you give thanks to God for them every day?

February is a great month to remind our families how much we love them and how thankful we are for them and all you need is 14 paper hearts! Starting on February 1, write down one thing you love about the special people in your life on a paper heart and post the hearts somewhere in your house where they will see it. You can even use Scripture passages to remind the people in your life about how much God loves them. Do this every day until Valentine's Day or go wild and do it the entire month!



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

	December 2021	January to December 2021	December 2020
Offerings & Other Income	\$170,084	\$1,525,332	\$166,025
Ministry Expenses	\$125,915	\$1,410,703	\$125,801
Income over Expenses	\$44,169	\$114,629	\$40,224
Future Expansion	\$466	\$11,160	



## Automated Giving

St. Michael offers electronic giving for members who want to have offerings transferred electronically to the church's account. Visit our website and click on "Giving."

## THANK YOU KROGER SHOPPERS!

St. Michael received \$155 in total donations from 51 households! Link your rewards card to St. Michael! Our number is UU047.

## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Choice Dollars are funds made available by Thrivent Financial for Lutheran members and directed to St Michael. We have a committee that oversees the distribution of these funds, and we allocate the funds to support missions, seminarians, outreach and other programs that are not provided for in the church budget. We generally limit allocations to a maximum of \$500 for any individual and \$1,500 for any organization/project during a calendar year. Following is how your dollars were allocated in 2021:

\$ 500 St. Michael Day Celebration  
\$ 1,500 National Youth Gathering for 2022  
\$ 500 Preschool green space  
\$ 1,000 CPR Training  
\$ 250 Christmas gift field worker  
\$ **3,750** *Total Choice Dollars allocated for 2021*

\$ 463 Unallocated ending balance as of December 31, 2021

### 2021 Choice Dollars® Expire on March 31, 2022

There are two easy options for directing Choice Dollars:

Online: [www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

Phone: 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt

We thank you for directing your Choice Dollars to St Michael, and we pledge to continue to use these dollars to support St Michael ministries. If you have any request or questions regarding these funds, please direct your inquiries to Thrivent Advocate Committee at St. Michael. Committee members are Dave and Myra Atkinson, Brian Corajod, Jerry Egly, Sharon Smith, Tim Thoms and Terry Lunt.



# CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

## THE SEARCH FOR OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Following communication with several additional pastor candidates, the Call Committee is meeting with the goal of presenting prospective candidates to the congregation by the end of February. Your prayers for wisdom and discernment are appreciated as we seek out God's will for our next senior pastor. Please feel free to contact any of the call committee members with your questions! They are listed with their contacts on the bulletin board outside the church office.

## BLESS

### LOCAL POLICE BREAKFAST—Saturday, February 12

St. Michael is providing breakfast in appreciation of our local police force from 6:00a-9:30a. If you would like to make food or be present to meet and talk with the officers, contact celine@stmfw.org or Beth Ann Hargrove at bagrover77f@gmail.com.

### REDEMPTION HOUSE

The ladies of Redemption House loved and appreciated the winter scarves that the ladies of the Purls Group at our church made for them as Christmas gifts. They also are enjoying the small cloth purses that Jan Donato and Lori Hudson sewed for them. Still another thank you to the Friday Morning Bible Study for packing and filling the Christmas bags and making them ready for delivery. Thanks to all you ladies, and also to the faithful who give so generously every month with the meals!

St. Michael will support the residents with meals at Wayne Street on February 6 and March 6; and Fairfield Avenue on February 20 and March 20. Please call or text Candi Luchnenko at 302-2909 to help!



### AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE—Save the date Saturday, May 7!

#### LWML NEWS

Thanks to those who contributed to the \$420 LWML Mite Collection. The chapel offerings for the second quarter for ESM will also be given to the Mite collection grants including the Shepherd's Hand Community Outreach Center, Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op, Worship Anew/Lutheran Ministries Media, and Concordia Educational Association.

#### LWML INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION—June 17-19

At Concordia Lutheran High School

We will collect offerings for Kate's Kart, Charis House and Chris' Cupboard.

Watch for registration and more information this spring!

### ST. MICHAEL MOTIVES are

 **Christ Centered   Discipleship Directed   Family Focused   Mission Minded**

BELONG   BECOME   BLESS

# Serving in February 2022

	Dates	Saturday	Sunday	
			8:00	10:00
Altar Guild	February	Sue Baker, Carla Jennings, Liz Edwards		
Elders	February	Ryan Meyer	Mike Kuhn	Harry Jones
Acolytes	5/6	Aaron and Reid McDonald	Open	Elliot Yoder/Luke Bilos
	12/13	Aaron Lyttle	Luke Bilos	Taylor Klein
	19/20	Aaron and Reid McDonald	Open	Elliot Yoder
	26/27	Aaron Lyttle	Open	Nolan Nutter



## FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



	date	years		date	years
Jeremy and Rian Faux	2/2	15	Jim and Karen Martin	2/17	49
Dick and Susan Fox	2/3	43	Bob and Vickie Scholl	2/23	48
David and Lori Hudson	2/6	51	Nathan and Bethany Wickert	2/23	20
Barry and Linda Chrzan	2/7	30	Dean and Christy Willson	2/23	31
Dan and Karen Clendenen	2/7	46	Jason and Renee Hoagland	2/24	15
Ron and April Cohen	2/8	19	Carlton and CaSandra Arthur	2/26	22
David and Amy Crow	2/8	19	Mike and Suanne Roemer	2/27	57
			Matthew and Christine Habegger	2/28	5

## BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Please celebrate these children with us on February 19/20: Brody Bienz; Ryker Bolinger; Owen Bostwick; Frank Cavazuti; Griffin Coe; Daniel Davis; Nadelyn Roehm; Maggie Schwyn.

## GAP MINISTRY

St. Michael believes in the importance of prayer. God Answers Prayer members want to pray for you and with you. They will be available on February 19/20 after the worship services in the conference room.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Bear One Another's Burdens... In Galatians 6, Paul tells us to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." At St. Michael, our Stephen Ministers have been trained and organized to do just that. They provide one-to-one care, prayer, and support to those who are going through a difficult time. If you would like more information on our Stephen Ministry, please call Linda Kraus at 446-4347.

*"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him."* 1 John 4:16b

Thank you!

Thank you for the many cards and phone calls that I receive on my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! Also, a thank you to my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren for dinner and the flowers in church. God has been so good to me all these years!  
Blessings, Dorothy Smith

BELONG BECOME BLESS