

March newsletter

St. Michael Lutheran Church
432-2033 | stmfw.org

There's one emphasis these days that is beginning to overtake all the attention on COVID, and that's MARCH MADNESS! If you're a college basketball fan, you're probably getting excited and ready to fill out the brackets and binge on the games. It's an Indiana thing, but it's also something for many others.

How about Lent? Is that grabbing your attention, maybe even as much or more? If you're a "fan" of Jesus and what he did for the world - for YOU! - you may not be excited, but looking forward to this season and the final outcome of Easter. It's a Christian thing, right?

The 40-day season starts March 2. By the way, that's 40 days, not counting Sundays. The Sundays remain rooted in the Resurrection, and so are not counted as part of the Lenten season. Those 40 days, however, offer many opportunities to further develop our faith. It's called discipline, and that's a word related to "disciple." As followers of Jesus, there's always more to learn and more to the living in following our Lord.

Historically, Lent was a time to prepare people to become members of the Church and a local congregation. They not only learned of the basics of our faith, but also about the great drama of salvation, and how to live the new life that Jesus offers: a life of faithful following.

One custom of the season has been to give up something for Lent. This practice is all about understanding what is important in our faith and discarding something minor, or even irrelevant. It's about self-sacrifice. It mirrors in some meaningful way what Jesus gave up in coming to earth and focusing on his mission. That mission was to bring us back to God by dying our death in sacrifice to God for our sins.

Another Lenten custom is to take on something for Lent, that is, to add something special to our faith life: Bible Reading, devotions, or prayer time, if they haven't already been a part of our spiritual life. Or taking on a special project, something that puts our faith into action for others. Examples of this might be: giving special offerings for special projects that help people, or becoming first-hand in reaching out to the poor and those in need.

Classically, there have been three spiritual exercises for the season: prayer, fasting and alms giving (giving to the poor). Consider these things, too.

For us, among other things, we offer special mid-week worship that helps us further develop our faith. This year our Wednesday services through Easter will focus on **The Prayer Jesus Taught**, that is, The Lord's Prayer. We will look at this important prayer, petition by petition (part by part) to discover its depth of meaning. This is the only prayer that Jesus gave us, as either a prayer to pray or a pattern for our prayers. Either way, it is a rich and helpful thing. Because we pray it often, it can lose some of its "punch," so considering it closely and carefully can be a great Lenten exercise - something I hope will be true for you.

This time is also a time of preparation for Easter, the biggest, most important thing of all!

Me? I don't get too excited about college basketball's March Madness; I look forward to the NHL playoffs that lead to the Stanley Cup. In the meantime - and even more so - I look forward to Lent, which leads to the biggest celebration: Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord. You know, if there were no Easter, I wouldn't be writing this. There would be no St. Michael congregation, no Christian Church, nothing or no one to believe in, nothing to look forward to! It's like St. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15 - the great chapter on the Resurrection.

"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." (v.17)

But Jesus was raised from the dead, so there's more to life than this for us who believe; there's life with God forever. So, let's get ready to celebrate that in a big way!

ASH WEDNESDAY—March 2 at 1:00p and 7:00p

Worship with us. Both services offer ashes and Holy Communion as we prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the season of Lent. Midweek services will continue each Wednesday at 7:00p through April 6, also available by live stream.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND WORSHIP / MAUNDY THURSDAY / GOOD FRIDAY

Why should I attend Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services?

When we solemnly acknowledge the humility, agony, and painful sacrifice our innocent Lord suffered *for our sins*, Easter worship is more than just a service with a lot of music and extra flowers. We come with the heightened color of the season of lent. During this service, we remember Jesus' Passover meal with his disciples where he washed their feet as an awareness of the amazing *love and mercy shown to us*; we respond in humble gratitude and praise that God- through his son Jesus Christ shares the ultimate victory of life, hope, and salvation with us!

What is the Maundy Thursday service like?

This year our **Maundy Thursday is April 14 at 1:00p and 7:00p**. The colors for Maundy Thursday are purple, the act of servanthood (John 13:1-17) and instituted the Lord's Supper explaining that the bread and wine he shared were his very blood and body.

At the end of the service, Psalm 22 is sung while the altar paraments are removed. The 'stripping of the altar' is symbolic of the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. There is no benediction at the end of the service, since the service is continued on Good Friday.

What is the Good Friday service like?

We will have services at **1:00p and 7:00p on Good Friday, April 15**.

The Order of Tenebrae is an early Christian worship service utilized in the observance of Good Friday. "Tenebrae" is Latin for "darkness" or "in the shadows," and the service is characterized by the gradual removal of light from the sanctuary as the scriptural accounts are read, describing the death of our Lord. Tenebrae is not a funeral service for Jesus, but rather a time of repentance as we consider his love for us. As the last candle is removed, noting the death of our Savior, a loud sound is heard. This represents that point in history when the tomb was closed. Following the silent prayer at the close of the service, worshippers will depart. We ask that there be no speaking until you have left the church grounds. We return to our homes in contemplation of the meaning of Christ's death for us and in the certain hope of the Easter victory soon to be celebrated. As Christ's crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday, altar paraments, the pastor's and acolytes' cassocks as well as the shrouds are black, symbolizing humiliation, mourning and death.

ORDER EASTER FLOWERS!



Saturday March 12–Sunday, April 10

Beautify our sanctuary on Easter with your flower order at the information center or contribute to the flower fund by using a pew envelope designated to Altar Guild Flowers.



Camp Lutherhaven

Registration is now live for this free Memorial Weekend event that runs from May 27-30. We are again providing online registration to help collect information about which days and meals you may be attending. For more details and a link to register and reserve your spot, visit our [website](#) or use this link: <https://lutherhaven.org/event/family-work-weekend/>. We hope you will join us once again at Lutherhaven as we prepare to reach out with God's love to the 1400+ campers anticipated this summer.

GO AND SERVE SATURDAY | Save the Date | Invite a Friend

Saturday, April 23 from 9:00a – 12:00p

Join us as we once again take time in our busy schedules to be a positive influence and serve our community. It is a blessing to go and serve as Jesus' hands and feet with partners who are missionaries in their neighborhoods. In our serving, we become part of the Missio Deo (Latin term for God's Mission). As a part of God's Mission, he uses us to be witnesses to his story of love and forgiveness that brings hope into the lives of those we meet.

Acts 20:35

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Galatians 5:13

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

1 Peter 4:10

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

FROM UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH | BLOOMINGTON

If you have any high school seniors in your family who are planning to attend college, you have likely heard them talk about their college search with a mixture of excitement and apprehension. College can be a very exciting time, but it is also a time when many students struggle to stay rooted in their faith. If you have any students who are considering attending IU Bloomington, we would love to give them a tour of University Lutheran Church to let them know that we are available as a resource for worship, fellowship, and service for LCMS Lutherans. Feel free to reach out to me (rwoelmer@gmail.com<<mailto:rwoelmer@gmail.com>>) or to our Evangelism Deacon, Matthew Ross (rossmp@iu.edu<<mailto:rossmp@iu.edu>>), to get in touch and/or set up a personalized tour of the church!

MUSIC MUSINGS

*On my heart imprint Your image
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares and pleasures
Never may your work erase.*



Although our hymnal only has one verse of *On My Heart Imprint Your Image*, the original hymn by Thomas Kingo had 29 stanzas! This hymn invites us to ponder Christ's suffering for the world. Not just as an intellectual exercise, but an imprint on our very **heart**- this is personal! Christ's sacrifice and the hope and peace that His victory brings is a truth that we need to carry with us; a truth that impacts how we love each other; a truth that affects the joy we share and the praises we offer!

*Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!*



ACADEMY OF THE ARTS FUNDRAISER/Saturday, March 19, 6:30p

Chef Terry Hammond is preparing a delicious lasagna (meat or veggie), garlic bread, salad, and dessert. The cost is \$10 per meal and entertainment will be provided by our Academy students. Please register at stmfw.org!

JOIN US FOR ORCHESTRA EASTER REHEARSALS

Our orchestra is looking for musicians to play for Easter! We will play accompany several choir pieces as well as hymns. Rehearsals will be in the sanctuary at 6:00p on Thursday March 10, 17, 24; at 8:00p on Wednesday, March 30, and 9:00a on Saturday, April 16. Contact our worship director, Stephanie Maxson at stephanie@stmfw.org for a set of music.

CHOIR REHEARSAL TIMES THROUGH MARCH

We would love to have you join us as we work on music for Lent and Easter. The Adult choir will rehearse at 7:45p or immediately after the Midweek Lenten services. Worship and then singing – what a wonderful evening of engaging with God's Word and each other!

Saturday Band Line-up

March 5	King's Strings
March 12	Life Song
March 19-	King's Strings
March 26	Life Song



THOUGHTS FROM CELINE

This month we are going to dive into the practice of **FASTING**. (Yikes! Did she just say that?!) Yes, fasting. The act of abstaining from something for a period of time for a certain spiritual purpose.

Usually the concept of fasting goes with ideas such as punishment or redemption. “No more dessert for me! I have eaten too much already.” “No time with your friends for a week!” “I have been binge watching all day - I need to turn off the TV and go for a walk.” In scientific and cultural rhetoric, the concept of fasting is growing in popularity because of the health benefits. A quick internet search or look at magazine articles will give titles such as “Intermittent fasting 101” and “Reasons to Do a Digital Detox.” I believe the benefits of these practices do point to the design of God; however, fasting with a spiritual purpose is different. Even though it may still have some health benefits, we fast for a different reason. To begin, it will help us to grow in compassion for those who are suffering, and will grow our dependence on God while lessening the power of “the flesh”. In choosing to dwell in discomfort, we will be able to see how strong behaviors such as pride, greed, envy, and anger are in our hearts and minds. We can invite the Spirit in to create deep change.

This spiritual practice isn't a comfortable one. But uncomfortable doesn't mean bad. Fasting is a practice that we see as a part of the lives of God's people throughout scripture. The Israelites were often led to fast in repentance and for devotion. (Jonah 3:5-10, Ester 4:16) In the New Testament church of Acts they fasted to commit servants to God. (Acts 14:23)

So, let's dive into this practice. Here are some guidelines as you step into this spiritual practice.

- **Identify the purpose** - Take time in prayer and in scripture to learn about and decide why you are going to fast. And then determine what you are going to go without. It can be food, but it can also be fasting from technology or a time consuming activity. Maintaining a balanced diet is important, so if you choose to fast from food, be sure you have considered the positives and negatives and if necessary talk with a doctor about it.
- **Determine the length of the fast** - It may be a one-time practice. It may be for a part of a day, a full day, or once a week. Perhaps it will last for a month, the Lenten season, or even the year! Taking time to be intentional about this commitment will allow you to be more successful in this practice.
- **Plan what you will do with the space that you have created** - Will it be time in prayer, in community, reading scripture, resting, playing? It's a great idea to connect it to the purpose of your fast. I definitely suggest lifting up doing something to help you connect with God.
- **Share with people** - Be in constant communication with God and with people. Yes, scripture urges us to fast in private, but that doesn't mean isolation. Let the Spirit walk with you and be your companion. Find people who will pray with you and share in discussion about this practice. And remember, I am always ready to dig into deeper discussion with you about this or any other spiritual practice.
- **Give yourself grace** - This practice isn't always easy. That's why we practice. If the discipline falters - it's ok. Just start from where you left off.

Resources to go a little deeper

- <https://justdisciple.com/fasting-rules/>
- <https://practicingtheway.org/practices/fasting>
- https://www.christianbook.com/chosen-fast-spiritual-practical-guide-fasting/arthur-wallis/9780875085548/pd/085547?en=bing-pla&event=SHOP&kw=christian-living-0-20%7C085547&p=1179517&dv=c&msclkid=4023acdb80e31805fc0fcec0821c8e1&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Shopping%20Christian%20Living&utm_term=4580565451508493&utm_content=s-christian%20living#CBD-PD-Description

BOOK CLUB

Book club will meet the third Thursday of the month (March 17) in the conference room. This month's selection is *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate. Happy reading!

J.O.Y. GROUP

March 10 at 12:00p in Luther Hall

Mark your calendar for noon in Luther Hall! Pastor Joe Gudel (Adjunct Professor at Concordia Theological Seminary) will join us to speak on his tract *Jesus and the Qur'an*. **Please reserve your lunch by March 3** by contacting Penny at 580-8730. Cost is \$10.00 cash at the door for the Chick-fil-A lunch. Holy Cross members are invited for this informative event.



Pastor Joe Gudel was the Director of Campus Ministries at Concordia Lutheran High School for 22 years, retiring in 2019. He has a Ph. D. in Missiology and has authored many articles over the years, mainly in the areas of Islam and apologetics. He has been a speaker at pastoral conferences, The National Youth Gathering and on radio stations around the country. If you attend the JOY meeting you will receive his articles *Islam's Worldwide Revival*, *To Every Muslim An Answer* and his tract *Jesus and the Qur'an* (which has sold almost one million copies since its publication 10 years ago).

March 22 at 10:00a in Luther Hall

Join us for the informative Bible study "Blessed are Happy" with Pastor Bill Barlow. Coffee & treats are provided!

COFFEE BREAK WOMEN'S STUDY— March 9/23



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 for information.

PRAYING FOR OUR NATION—March 2 at 2:30p, March 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 for more information and to engage in this ministry (charrison75@comcast.net).

PURLS—March 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. Direct your questions 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.

Upcoming Activities Mar 2 to Apr 10 – 40 Days for Life

- Mar 13 – Diaper repackaging
- Mar 15 - Deeper Still Banquet
- Apr 19 – A Hope Center Banquet
- May 7-8 – Mother's Day Carnations

Links

- Lutherans for Life <https://lutheransforlife.org/>
- LCMS Life Ministry [Life Ministry - The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod \(lcms.org\)](https://www.lcms.org/life-ministry)
- Right to Life of Northeast Indiana <https://www.ichooselife.org/>
- A Hope Center <https://ahopecenter.org/>



STEPHEN MINISTRY

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.

NEW MEMBER CLASS—Wednesday, March 23

Please call Tina in the church office at 432-2033 if you would like information on joining the family of St. Michael!

FAMILY MINISTRY FROM CARRIE

Mark your calendars for St. Michael's annual Easter Egg Hunt, taking place on April 10 from 9:30a-10:30a during the Sunday school hour. Families meet in the gym at 9:30 where we will begin with a welcome and music. We will divide into age groups and participate in fun activities centered on the Easter Story. Sixth through eighth graders as well as high-school youth can sign up to lead/assist with activities.

We are collecting donations of individually wrapped candy for our Easter egg hunt goodie bags. Please drop off your contributions under the counter in the lobby by March 18. We're specifically looking for individually wrapped bags of Skittles, Smarties, Dum-Dum suckers, fruit snacks, and any other candy that is peanut and peanut butter free.

We are also looking for volunteers for the Easter Egg hunt activities on April 10th. Students in grades 6-8 as well as high school youth and adults are needed to help lead and assist with our activities. You can see a full list of volunteer needs and sign up at stmfw.org.

As many families prepare to travel for Spring Break, the question of how to entertain your children on a long trip comes to mind! We have several envelopes of Table Topics question cards that are a fun way to get everyone in the family thinking and talking. If you'd like to borrow a set, let Carrie know and she'll arrange to get one to you! Carrie.Gould1137@yahoo.com or 937-641-9744.

THANK YOU MRS. LAHEY!

ESM gives thanks to God for the 19 years of service by Nurse Sarah Lahey. Mrs. Lahey has announced that she has taken a position to serve as an immunization nurse. She has been a tremendous blessing to our school, and we are thankful for her dedication and commitment to keeping our school healthy and safe. We wish Mrs. Lahey all the best in her new role!



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](#).

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 | www.esmeagles.com.

SCHOLARSHIP INCOME THRESHOLDS INCREASED

Income thresholds have increased again and many more Indiana families qualify than ever before. Check it out! [ESM Scholarship FAX Updated 2.8.22](#). Questions? Contact Karen Clendenen, Finance Manager: 459-1616 | kclendenen@esmeagles.com | www.esmeagles.com.

TALENT SHOW—Friday, March 25 at 7:00p in the Union Gym

Come, join the fun, and see our students putting their best foot forward in our annual Talent Show! Concessions open at 6:00 pm so get there early and enjoy hotdogs, popcorn, chips, candy and more! Admission is \$2.00 for students, \$4.00 for adults, or \$10.00 for a family pass. This is a great night of family fun and entertainment and all proceeds go toward the eighth Grade Class Trip to Washington, D.C.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING DIAPERS!

ESM collected 1890 diapers! Thank you for your donations to help many families in need.

PIZZA HUT FUNDRAISER FOR EIGHTH GRADE CLASS TRIP

Help support our 8th grade class as they raise funds for their class trip to Washington, D.C. Simply purchase a Pizza Hut \$10 Fundraiser Card and receive over 24 fabulous offers. Contact any eighth grader or call the school office at 422.6712 to order - 100% of the profits go directly to the 8th graders class trip fund. A big thank you to the Coventry Pizza Hut location for sponsoring us and our PTL for covering the printing costs. We appreciate your support.

ESM PRESCHOOL

CHECK OUT THE NEW OUTDOOR CLASSROOM SPACE!

Emmanuel-St. Michael is excited to begin engaging students in outdoor learning experiences this spring! The gift of a newly constructed fence, **located on the northwest side of St. Michael's building**, encloses a grassy space where learning opportunities for students will be expanded. Teachers and students are thankful for this incredible gift from St. Michael Lutheran Church and ESM PTL.



Listed below are **some** of the ways the space may be used by students in the coming months:

- Preschool Outdoor Station Time: Building with Natural Materials, Playing with Water/Sand/Mud, Engaging in Dramatic Play
- Outdoor Small Group Time: Art Activities, Sensory Exploration, Literacy Learning, Math Learning
- Exploring God's Creation: Plant, Tend and Grow a Garden; Science Exploration, Scavenger Hunt
- Quiet Place to Read and/or Journal

The teachers look forward to developing this space throughout the spring months. If you have any skills or resources you think might be useful as we plan, please contact Jennifer Ackmann at 459-1616 or jackmann@esmeagles.com.

CLHS

SUMMER CAMP AND SUMMER CLASSES REGISTRATION OPEN

Concordia's Summer Camp and Summer Class registration is now open! Summer Camps are available for K-12 grade students and feature something for all interests, including sports, computers, band, drama and rocket science! We also offer summer classes for students in grades 8-12 (during the 2021-22 school year). Learn more and register at www.clhscadets.com/summer.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Have your children asked questions like these: How do we know the Bible is true? Does God really hear our prayers? Why is there evil in the world? What if I don't feel like my faith is real? These are tough topics for moms and dads to address. If you're not sure how you'd answer, you're in good company. Lots of Christian parents want help in shaping and growing their children's faith.

That's why Focus on the Family has created this FREE 7-part series of videos called [Kids and God](#). We want you to have teaching strategies to talk with your children about these topics intellectually and spiritually. Today's kids and teens are looking for authenticity, integrity, and straightforward truth. In this series, I asked my good friend Dr. Jeff Myers from Summit Ministries to offer you tools to answer your children's toughest academic questions and the concerns of their heart.

As an expert in apologetics and working with young adults, Dr. Myers will give you practical ways to spark conversations that will bring understanding about faith topics, but also help you connect with your children. Helping them discover and own their own faith is one of the most important roles you play as a parent. All the episodes come with discussion questions, a Scripture verse, a guided prayer, and links to additional resources to help you dig deeper. Are you ready to get started? [Sign up right now by clicking here.](#)

YOUTH

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

We have raised \$36,000 so far including over \$16,000 from congregational donations, \$1,500 in a leadership grant and over \$6000 from youth service projects. Wow. THANK YOU!!!! We still need to raise about \$18,000.

Here is how you can help us reach our goal!

1. Attend the Ash Wednesday Taco Dinner and give generously.
2. Purchase a "Break-the-fast" pie.
3. Plan to attend the Easter Breakfast and give generously.
4. Have the youth come to serve you and give generously.
5. Make a donation to our trip in honor of one of our students. Commit to praying for them.

To God be the glory as we work together to encourage and support our youth!

YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS/FUNDRAISER FOR NYG

If you have a project and need a helping hand, please contact stephanie@stmfw.org!

YOUTH NIGHTS IN MARCH

High school youth only (grades 9-12)	March 13	6:00p-8:00p
Middle (grades 6-8) and high school youth	March 27	4:00p-8:00p
Bible Study / Luther Hall led by NYG students	March 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: Relational Connections with the Body of Believers | Being Strengthened by Means of Grace

We will meet on Sundays at 9:30a on March 6, 13, 20, and 29. We will meet on zoom on March 7 and 21.



CONFIRMATION REMINDER

April 29, Confirmation Rehearsal

May 1, Confirmation Sunday

FINANCIAL UPDATE

	January 2022	January – December 2021 (final)	January 2021
Offerings & Other Income	\$158,139	\$1,525,332	\$168,701
Ministry Expenses	\$113,412	\$1,411,606	\$106,848
Income over Expenses	\$44,727	\$113,726	\$61,853
Future Expansion	\$1,073	\$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.”

16th Annual St. Michael Lutheran Church Foundation Award Proposal Requests are Open!

Requests for funds will be received until 5:00p on Tuesday, April 5. Awards will be announced on the weekend of April 23 & 24, 2022. A door collection /envelope offering will also occur that weekend to benefit the Foundation. Awards will be made from designated funds and the general endowment fund to church and mission causes. Applications are encouraged to expand the mission and ministry of SMLC. Submit an explanation letter to the St. Michael Foundation in care of Ron Menze, Foundation Advisor (menzeron@gmail.com) (260-341-5289) or into the Foundation mail slot at church. Electronic submissions are encouraged. The pandemic has delayed & modified the timing of our Endowment Awards for the last two years. We have returned to Spring awards. Please make this year a success with your foundation application and your financial gifts.

PASTOR / CHURCH WORKER RECRUITMENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Set Apart to Serve is the LCMS’ initiative to recruit pastors and church workers to hand over the saving faith to God’s people, passing on the Christian faith from one generation to the next until our Savior’s return. Christ provides workers for His church through His people. That’s why we need your help to make this initiative the best it can be. We would like to collect input from you through a short online survey.

Do you know any young man who would make a great pastor? How about someone who would be a great Lutheran school teacher, deaconess or DCE? Jesus gives His church people who work full time in service to the Gospel. He told us to pray for such workers. The LCMS continues to pray, and has begun Set Apart to Serve (SAS), an intentional effort to encourage young people to consider church work as their career. Your opinion can help improve SAS. Please fill out a brief survey at lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve-survey by March 15, and let us know how you think SAS can be beneficial to your congregation. Thank you!

Explore the educational programs available through:

Concordia University Ann Arbor;
Concordia University Chicago;
Concordia University Irvine;
Concordia University Nebraska;

Concordia University St. Paul;
Concordia University Texas,
Concordia University Wisconsin.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

THE SEARCH FOR OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Following communication with several additional pastor candidates, the Call Committee is meeting with the Board of Elders and the Church Council with the goal of presenting a senior pastor candidate to the congregation in March. Your prayers for wisdom and discernment are appreciated as we seek out God's will. Please feel free to contact any of the Call Committee members with your questions! They are listed with their contact information on the bulletin board outside the church office. Look for a letter in your mailbox soon!

BLESS

LOCAL POLICE BREAKFAST

Thank you to the many members of St. Michael who provided food and visited with the officers in February. Your time and generosity is appreciated!

REDEMPTION HOUSE

St. Michael will support the residents with meals at Wayne Street on March 6 and April 13; and Fairfield Avenue on March 20 and April 3. Please call or text Candi Luchnenko at 302-2909 to help!



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

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!

Thank you!

THANK YOU for your cards, phone calls and expressions of sympathy with the death of our grandson, Ross Nichols. All of his family and friends are appreciative of your Christian love. We are blessed to be a blessing. You have been a blessing to us! Pastor Jerry and Mary Nichols



ST. MICHAEL MANDATE

"I appeal to you, by the mercies of God...be transformed." Romans 12:1-2

ST. MICHAEL MOTIVES

Christ Centered Discipleship Directed Family Focused Mission Minded

Serving in March 2022

	Dates	Saturday	Sunday	
			8:00	10:45
Altar Guild	March	Candis Luchnenko, Mary Prange, Sherry Buuck		
Elders	March	Tom Latin	John Hein	Luke Thompson
Acolytes	March 2	Lucas Clendenen		
	5/6	Aaron Lyttle	Open	Elliot Yoder
	March 9	Open		
	12/13	Aaron and Reid McDonald	Open	Open
	March 16	Open		
	19/20	Open	Open	Taylor Klein/Luke Bilos
	March 23	Open		
	26/27	Open	Open	Nolan Nutter
March 30	Open			

GOD'S BLESSINGS ON THESE MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

	date	years		date	years
Daniel and Pamela Green	3/2	26	Nick and Carrie Gould	3/20	18
Chip and Marcia Olson	3/4	33	Zach and Janna Harl	3/21	2
Jim and Kathie Barron	3/6	29	Keith and Cheri Miller	3/21	24
Tom and Dawn Buuck	3/6	46	Brad and Jennifer Chaffee	3/23	26
Gary and Debbie Gotsch	3/10	43	Samuel and Elizabeth		
Rich and Linda Kraus	3/11	50	Clendenen	3/23	9
Tony and Beth Ann Hargrove	3/14	2	Matthew and Amy Stewart	3/23	15
Ross and Samantha Fredrickson	3/16	9	Brad and Holly Hathaway	3/28	13
Brent and Tara Panning	3/16	20	Jim and Diana Sims	3/29	58
Bob and Shelley Kaiser	3/18	5			

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Please celebrate these children with us on March 19/20: Anahi Alberto; Emma Bains; Bradyn Bender; Henry Carsten; Archer Christman; Ali Davis; Banson Engle; Gavin Evans; Charlie Klein; Johnathon and Wyatt Overby; Kristian, Austin and Eli Pieper; Gavin Schroeder; James Sult; Henry Vachon; Brinlee Weible; Brooks, Kroy and Tate Young.

GAP MINISTRY

St. Michael believes in the importance of prayer. God Answers Prayer members want to pray for you and with you. Al Claus will be available on Saturday, March 19 and Sarah and Nathan Federwitz and Celine Newman on Sunday after the worship services in the conference room.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Love One Another As I Have Loved You...

In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job--it's something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it. If you would like more information call Linda Kraus at 446- 4347. Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." John 21:16b