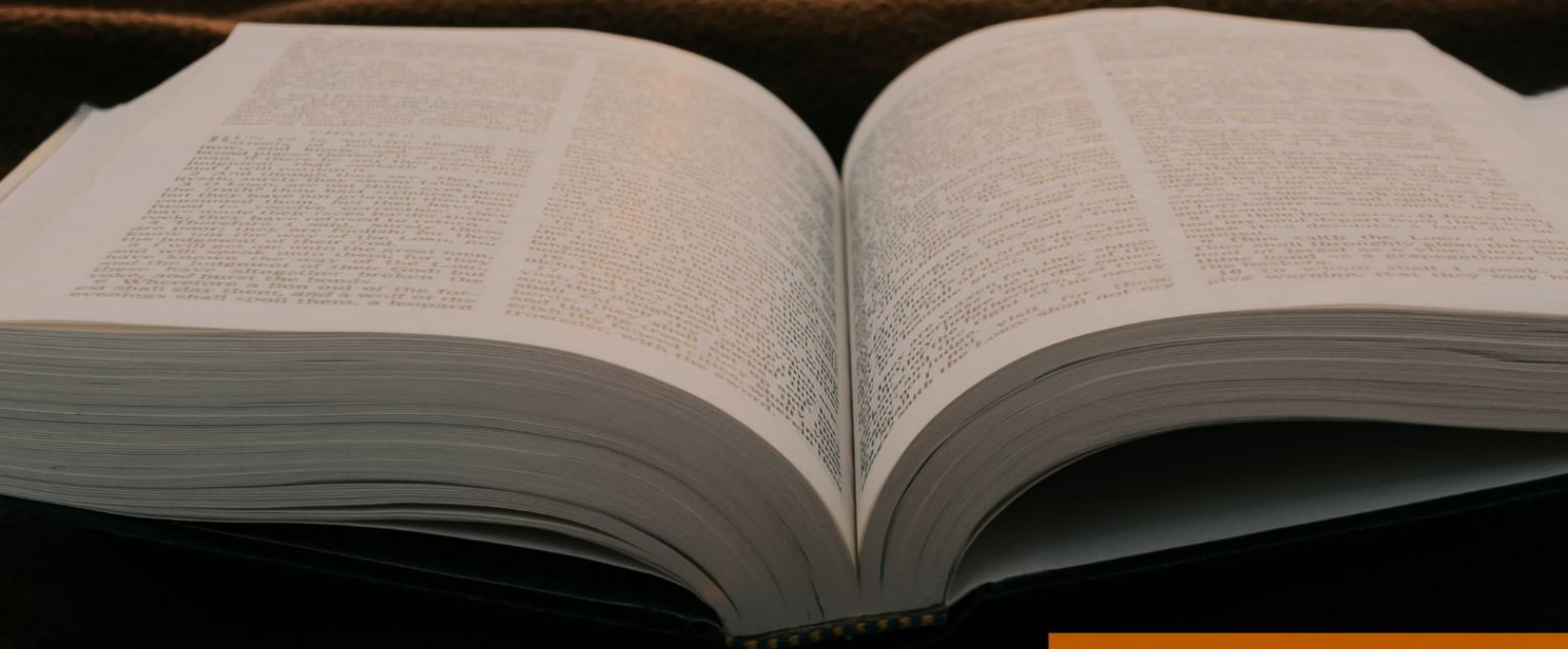


SEPTEMBER

st. michael newsletter

"FOR WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS
FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED
IN ADVANCE FOR US TO DO."

EPHESIANS 2:10



CONNECT WITH PASTOR GOFF

Do you know the difference between a bear, a moose, and a wolf?

If a bear comes close to you, don't run! Moving away quickly makes you look like prey and so they are more likely to come after you.

If a moose comes at you, run away as fast as you can.

If a wolf approaches you, shout and throw rocks at it. Never run from a wolf.

Got it? If it's a bear, don't run. If it is a moose, run. If it is a wolf, throw rocks.

Laura and I just came back from two weeks in Alaska and while we were there we did a little hiking. Apparently, it's not unlikely to encounter a bear or moose, or even sometimes wolves, while out on a trail. At the entrance to one of the trails was a large sign describing the difference between what you should and should not do if you come across a bear, a moose, or a wolf. And if you do encounter one, it's obviously helpful to have the information ahead of time! It's all about preparation!

This weekend (September 9-10) is what we call Rally Day at St. Michael. Rally Day is when we return to a regular schedule of Sunday School classes for children and Bible study opportunities for adults on Sunday mornings. Why do we do this? It's all about preparation. We live in a world where there are predators; mainly the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh. We daily face all three. So, how do we deal with them? We prepare. We prepare through the study of God's Word, through the gathering together as the body of Christ as we care for one another, encourage one another, and live out our faith with one another.

Parents of school age children, I encourage you to help your child be prepared. Bring them to Sunday School. Make it a part of their life preparation that they learn the sacred stories in God's Word. But then also read, and reread these stories to them at home. As they grow, help them to find life applications to what they hear and learn from God's Word. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6).

But also for parents of school age children, and for all adults of all ages I encourage your ongoing discipleship preparation too by participating in one of the Sunday morning adult classes we are offering. Not only do we too face predators, but the need to be strengthened and built up in our life of faith is something we never outgrow. Recently, I came across a list of 21 benefits of studying the Bible. I won't list all of them, but here are a few: strengthens our faith, resistance to temptation, correction, wisdom (not just knowledge or information), victory in the face of spiritual warfare, endurance, encouragement, and more.

This fall we are offering 5 different classes for adults on Sunday mornings. See the descriptions on the following page.

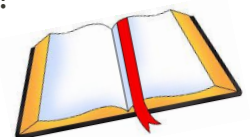
All of this (Sunday School and adult classes) are a part of our discipleship preparation in **becoming** more like Jesus and **belonging** to His body. Make every weekend a commitment of worship **and** discipleship growth.

While I am encouraging everyone to attend the discipleship hour each Sunday (9:30-10:30), I want to also thank all those who have agreed to teach the classes we are offering. To Sunday School teachers and adult class leaders – THANK YOU!

Pastor Goff

It's never too late to join our New Testament Reading Challenge!

Join us for the study of Philipians/Colossians!



FALL BIBLE STUDIES

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MONEY?

Join us as we explore a scripture-based 7-week financial class called “**Navigating Your Finances God’s Way.**” The videos, workbook questions, scripture readings, and group discussion will help you be a better steward of the gifts God has blessed you with while also improving your financial health and freedom. Whether you’re single or married, young or old, wealthy or not - this class is for you! Taught by Mary Leininger and Tim Thoms

NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES BIBLE STUDY

Paul is credited with writing half of the books (or better, letters) in the New Testament. These letters are highly personal communications from Paul, and often a co-author, to particular individuals or churches in the first century AD. These are all letters that God inspired Paul to write, meaning God is at work through reading someone else’s mail originally intended for a particular audience. These are all letters of relevance and power for God’s Church still today! As we finish out our reading through the New Testament this Fall, this class will focus on a significant portion of what we have been, or currently are, reading. Taught by Keith Peters

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH CONNECTION BIBLE STUDY

As St. Michael continues reading through the New Testament in a year, the Leadership Team is creating a weekly reading plan to help our church family 1) find their place, and 2) lead others in our discipleship model of Becoming More Like Jesus, Belonging to His Church, and Blessing His World...as we connect people to Jesus and others! Join us to learn more about the reading plan, the St. Michael discipleship model, and how to connect with others as a leader or participant in a connect group. Taught by Pastor Shawn

CREATIVE FAITH GATHERING

Join us for a meaningful and creative experience! Connect with fellow attendees through prayer and community building while enjoying activities like meditative coloring and Bible journaling. Led by Anna Davis and Jen Clendenen

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS CLASS (5 sessions)

Sunday, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 9:30a-10:30a

CFC is a great class for current members as well as anyone who has not been a member at a LCMS Church and is desiring to join membership at St. Michael. Contact Celine at celine@stmfw.org to sign up. Led by Celine Newman and Pastor Dennis Goff

DISCIPLESHIP FOUNDATIONS CLASS (3 sessions)

Sunday, November 5, 12, 19 from 9:30a-10:30a

DFC is for anyone taking further steps connecting into the church. It includes current members and those joining in membership at St. Michael by transfer from another LCMS church. Join us for this three-week class where we learn more about how God uniquely designed us and how we can use those gifts and talents in His kingdom.

PARABLES OF JESUS BIBLE STUDY

Monday nights at 7:00p

The Monday Night Bible study will begin classes on September 11 at 7:00p in the after school care room and will continue every week through November 20. We’ll be looking closely at the Parables of Jesus. The cost of the class is \$5. Please contact Terry Butler if you wish to attend (or if you have any questions) at tgbslb67@yahoo.com or call/text him at 515-6356.

BLESSING HIS WORLD

GO AND SERVE

Stay Tuned for a Go and Serve Event in October! We are working with community leaders at Electric Works, Red Cross, and Project 216 to setup a Go and Serve Event that will give back to the community and include the Union Street Market in October.

BACK TO SCHOOL CLINIC RECAP

On July 24, 25, and 26, St. Michael hosted a back-to-school clinic to meet a need in our community. We partnered with the Super Shots immunization clinic to offer free vaccines. We were blessed to have Fort Wayne Medical Education family medicine residents, Dr. Bosi, Dr. Tang, Dr. Abreu, Dr. Sai, and a local Family Practice physician, Dr. Urahammer and his nurse Renee, who all volunteered to give middle school sports physicals. We partnered with local optometrists, Dr. Troy Hockemeyer, Dr. Megan Foelling, and Dr. Danielle Teel to offer Kindergarten Eye screenings, as well as eye exams for the Middle School Sports Physicals. We also included parent resources from Lutheran Social Services and Cross Connections Counseling to help support them in the transition back to school. In conversations within our community, we learned of these three needs as children began to prepare for school. Over the course of the three-day clinic, 3 hours per day, our 30 volunteers were able to offer services to 215 students.

Volunteers ranged in age from 80 to 6 years-old. Our youngest, Finn, was also our SuperShot Popsicle Ambassador! Finn welcomed & encouraged students, held hands, and shared his own experience with getting shots. He topped it off by taking the students to the kitchen to pick out their popsicle treat! He was a game-changer for some of our more reticent children. What a great example of serving others in the name of Christ, regardless of your age!

Quotes from the clinic:

"We totally forgot our daughter was going to need a physical. This clinic came at just the right time and we are so thankful that it is free... she may not have been able to play sports this fall if we had to go in and pay for a physical." Parent of Middle Schooler

"It was such a blessing to give back to a community that has given to me." Medical Resident

"I wasn't sure how I was going to afford or even make an appointment for Kindergarten shots, we are so thankful you were able to offer this." Community Member

"Being able to connect with the families who have come in... all I can say is God is good." Volunteer

THANK YOU FOR THE SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

St. Michael donated...
341 Notebooks
1756 Pencils
425 packs of 24 crayons



BLESSING HIS WORLD

GET TO KNOW LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF INDIANA (LSSI)



Did you know that **Children's Village** is a state-of-the-art learning center that strives to meet children's developmental needs while promoting school readiness? In addition, Children's Village offers intergenerational programming in partnership with Lutheran Life Villages that includes: mail delivery, nature walks, exercise class, lunch, and arts and crafts. Older adults have so much wisdom to offer, and young children are eager to learn. At Children's Village, they become "co-explorers" — learning and growing together. St. Michael is excited to support LSSI!

Balance Works is a mental health initiative by LSSI, a faith-based mental-health provider offering proven integrated mind-body-spirit therapy for children and adults. LSSI is empowering individuals to overcome barriers, conquer traumatic experiences, and live life freely. Balance Works therapists are trained and credentialed in MI, CBT, DBT and EMDR at the foundational level. Therapists will be selected for client based on client needs, therapist expertise and caseload availability. Please contact LSSI at lssin.org with questions.

SHEPHERD OF THE CITY

As a St. Michael partner in ministry, Shepherd's Hand is reaching out in the city by caring for the Shepherd's people, daring to be the Shepherd's hands, and sharing the Shepherd's love. To volunteer, please contact Susan Hein at heinsd01@frontier.com or 418-0725.

REDEMPTION HOUSE

Redemption House residents are seeking to redeem their lives from past destructive behavior by developing a faith-based lifestyle. We will provide a meal at Wayne Street on September 10 and October 1 and Fairfield Avenue on September 17 and October 15. Contact Candi Luchnenko to provide a dish at 422-2061.

LWML FALL EVENT AT ST. MICHAEL!

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

SUPPORT WORSHIP ANEW'S GOLF OUTING

Join Worship Anew on Thursday, September 28 for the 10th Annual Elsie Rossman Memorial Golf Outing. This outing is open to all! Register at www.worshipanew.org. Come and support the vital mission of Worship Anew to be the foremost provider of resources that strengthen and support the spiritual, mental, and physical well-being of aging adults and those who minister and care for them. Proceeds from this event help to pay the broadcast fees on Fort Wayne's NBC station, which airs the weekly Worship Anew program. Awards, prizes, and special Ticket to Win It giveaways will also be available. Not a golfer? We also have sponsorship and donation opportunities!

NEWS FROM STEPHANIE

He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way. Psalm 25:9

I heard a teacher's aid remind the new kindergartners "bubbles and marshmallows" as they walked past my office today. I have no idea what bubbles and marshmallows mean, but I am guessing this was a creative way to encourage the kids to walk quietly down the hallway. Then I passed Lyn Auman who was on his way to purchase parts for a leaking toilet. This isn't that impressive, except that he explained his mission with a smile on his face; happy to do something that would help the church. Dan and Lyn, our two maintenance guys are the best! Finally, I was amazed that 70 people came last weekend to be trained as greeters, ushers, and information desk volunteers. They gave up several hours of their day and then agreed to continue to give time, energy and talents to show hospitality in our worship services. They aren't serving to be recognized but to be helpful! I could have used many other examples, and am so thankful to work at a place where I get to see God's humble servants at work every day!

ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

Why invest in private music lessons?

Greater accountability, individualized instructions and attention, increased motivation, more opportunity for greater success—private lessons definitely offer any child the best musical education!

Why invest in private music lessons in St. Michael Academy of the Arts?

Along with all of the benefits of individual lessons, students at the St. Michael Academy of the Arts have instructors who acknowledge the giver of artistic gifts; our Creator God. Students learn the value of practice to gain skill not for their own benefit, but to honor the Father who gives us musical talents so we can praise the name of Jesus!

We are excited that we still have spots open for the fall session! Register today at <https://academy.stmfw.org/>.

We continue to partner with Joyful Creations Kindermusik to offer classes for children ages birth through 5 years old. Register at <https://jcstudio.kindermusik.com/location/57472>

VOCAL CHOIRS

Choir Rehearsals start this month! We can't wait to have you join us for a new season of songs, fellowship and opportunities to praise! Whether new, returning, or coming back after a season away, **all** are welcome and we can't wait to see you!

Adult Choir (SATB) Wednesday, September 6 @ 7:00p in the sanctuary (meets weekly)!

Four part singing; variety of music, sing 1-2 times a month, fun way to meet fellow musicians, always have a place to sit for worship!

Men' Choir (TTBB) Wednesday, September 6 @ 6:30p in the sanctuary (meets bi-weekly)

Four part men's singing, variety of music, sing once a month, great group of guys, not a huge time commitment!

Women's Choir (SSA) Wednesday, September 13 @ 6:30p in the sanctuary (meets bi-weekly)

Three part women's singing, variety of music, sing once a month, amazing gals, not a huge time commitment!

MUSIC NEWS *continued*

BELL CHOIRS

Harmony Ringers (HS-99yrs) Monday, September 11 @ 6:00p in the sanctuary (meets weekly)
Beginner through intermediate choir. This choir is for anyone who is interested in being a part of a fun and engaging group regardless of your musical ability. (Really!) This group participates in worship once a month.

Resound (HS-99yrs) Monday, September 11 @ 7:00p in the sanctuary (meets weekly)
Intermediate through advanced choir. This choir is for anyone who has some musical background and is wanting to be part of a fun and energetic choir. We will be working on higher level music and will participate in worship at least once a month.

Grace Notes (3-5 grade) Mondays @ 3:45-4:45p in the sanctuary (meets weekly)
Beginner choir for our kids! Great way to learn how to read music, work together as a group, and participate in worship.

FREED FROM DARKNESS MULTI-ARTS RETREAT—October 20/21

Do you enjoy painting? Writing? Creating? Designing? Dancing? Composing? St. Michael is partnering with United Adoration and Emmanuel Lutheran Church to host an arts retreat designed to bring artists together from our church and community for a time of creativity, collaboration, and renewal. Artists of all ages and experience levels are welcome! The theme *Freed from Darkness* along with scripture, music and art will be our inspiration as we create and collaborate to glorify God with our creative gifts.

Register at <https://unitedadoration.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1758970>

Would you be willing to help with hospitality for the Multi-Arts retreat by providing food or serving a meal? Please contact Stephanie Maxson at stephanie@stmfw.org for information on how to help.....and THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to the St. Michael Foundation and the Lutheran Foundation for providing funds so the 10 members of the St. Michael Music team could receive training this month at the Experience Conference. We are blessed!

Intern Update

Our intern is finished for the summer, but one of the pieces he wrote, *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, was selected to premiere at Concordia University Chicago's Student Composers Recital this semester. Nice work Owen!

September Band Line-Up

September 9 **King's Strings**

September 16 **Life Song**

September 23 **King's Strings**

September 30 **Life Song**

YOUTH WITH DCE INTERN EMMA DEINES

CHECK-IN WITH DCE INTERN EMMA!

This summer the Middle School and High School youth have been able to continue youth nights, participate in Food and Fellowship and help serve the Fort Wayne community. As we continue into the new school year, we continue to grow and create relationships. To help grow these relationships I would like to sit down and get to know families and students. Whether over a meal or coffee. If you are interested in setting up a time to meet email me at emma@stmfw.org or text/call (636)-542-2876. It has been a fantastic experience here at St. Michael's! As I continue to grow as a leader, I look forward to all that is ahead in the future.

Youth Calendar! - [Subscribe to the St. Michael Youth Google Calendar](#)

Youth Nights! "Find your Identity"- Youth Nights are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month (and 5th Sundays). This is for both Middle School and High School! Learn more about "whose you are" in Christ!

Youth Night Calendar		
Date	Middle School	High School
September 3rd	No Youth, Labor Day!	No Youth, Labor Day!
September 17th	Indiana Junior High Rally (no middle school youth night)	6:00p – 8:00p
October 1st	4:00p – 6:00p	6:00p – 8:00p

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHT! - SEPTEMBER 13 FROM 6:00p-8:00p

High School Youth had a blast last month at Electric Works! This month we look forward to trying some new games and a new devotion series! Keep your calendars open and join us again at Electric Works on September 13th! See you there!

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Do you play an instrument? St. Michael is starting a Youth Band to play for services and at youth nights! If you are interested in being part of the Youth Band please email Stephanie Maxson at stephanie@stmfw.org.

Would you like to help serve the congregation at St. Michael? We are looking to create a Youth Greeter/Usher Team to help on Sunday mornings (on a rotation schedule). St. Michael is also looking for students to help with the Tech Booth, Alter Guild, and the sound system. If you are interested in serving in any of these areas, please contact DCE Intern Emma at emma@stmfw.org.

During our youth nights, we also need help in the kitchen. If you would like to provide or help with a meal or item, please sign up here!



DCE INTERN UPDATE FROM PASTOR SHAWN

Many of you know that St. Michael's has been on a quest to acquire a DCE Intern since 2021. At the April congregational meeting in 2022, the congregation voted to go forward with a plan to apply to Concordia University Nebraska for a DCE Intern to work with our middle and high school youth programs. We were extremely blessed to receive Emma Deines in January of 2023.

Emma joined the St. Michael team and has spent many months transitioning from student to full-time youth worker, reviewing and updating our confirmation program, and leading middle and high school youth in a variety of settings. As we approach the last few months of the year, many people have asked... what's next for our youth and Emma? That's a great question!

St. Michael is seeking discernment on God's will for our youth ministry as we approach the end of Emma's internship. We have created a DCE Call Committee including Pastor Shawn, Pastor Goff, Celine Newman, Bethany Andrews, Lisa Shaeffer, Rhonda Patterson, BethAnn Hargrove, DeeDee Beights, Nathan Nix, and Paul Selking.

The Call Committee looked at the DCE/Director of Youth Ministry job description that was created in December, 2019 by a previous DCE Call Committee, and the DCE Intern job description. We are currently updating the Director of Youth Ministry job description to more accurately speak to the needs of youth ministry at St. Michael today. The Call Committee will then be exploring the growth potential and needs of our current youth ministry. With all this information in hand, a recommendation will be made to the Elders whether to extend a Call to Emma for the youth ministry role. Once complete, we will present it to the congregation at the November congregational meeting for an official vote.

We continue to pray that God's will for the St. Michael youth is clear. If you have questions, direct them to Pastor Shawn or Pastor Goff. Keep Emma, our call committee and our youth in your prayers!

SUNDAY SCHOOL with Jen Clendenen

Rally Day is just around the corner and we're excited to kick off our Sunday School classes for another year of learning and growing in our faith together! **All ages are invited to join us in the gym at 9:30a** for "Minute to Win It" games, singing, and a special celebration of our church family. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with old friends and meet new ones as we start the new Sunday School year!

We're proud to continue using the Answers Bible Curriculum for our pre-k through 5th graders. This curriculum brings the Bible to life and addresses the real-life issues that confront Christians today. Our teachers and students will gain a thorough understanding of Scripture and learn how to practically apply God's Word in their everyday lives.

For our junior high students, we're offering a catechism class that will prepare them for their eventual confirmation. High schoolers will dive deep into the book of John to explore the attributes of God.

We haven't forgotten about our adults either! We're excited to offer Sunday School classes for adults on a variety of topics including financial management, Paul's epistles, connect group activities, and creative faith.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to come together with your fellow church members and start your Sunday School classes off with a bang! Mark your calendars for Rally Day, September 10th, and get ready to celebrate and learn in a fun and exciting way. We can't wait to see you there!

BELONG

J.O.Y. GROUP (Just Older Youth 55 and older!)

Thursday, September 14 at 12:00p

Celine Newman will share information on Codetalkers--Heroes from WW 2. A Spanish-themed lunch will be available for \$5.00, payable at the door. Call Penny Pequignot at 580-8730 for reservations ASAP.

Thursday October 12 at 12:00p

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

Thursday November 9 at 12:00p

We will be celebrating Veteran's Day. Pastor Michael Fries is a Military Chaplain and works with the Indiana Air National Guard in Fort Wayne. He will base his message on his work. We will enjoy a lunch from Mission BBQ. The charge for this event will be \$10.00 payable at the door. Reservations should be made by calling Penny Pequignot at 580-8730 no later than November 2.

Thursday December 14 at 12:00p

Save the date for our Annual Christmas Party. We are looking forward to a festive and fun event. Stay tuned as additional information becomes available.

CONNECT MEALS ON THE 3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

Join us for a meal at a local restaurant after the service on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The next one will be September 16. Contact Celine Newman if you are planning on joining or for further details.



GAP MINISTRY—September 16/17

St. Michael believes in the importance of prayer. God Answers Prayer members want to pray for you and with you. Join them in the worship conference room after the services.

CONGREGATIONAL TRIP TO FRANKENMUTH—October 16/17

Keep our friends and family from St. Michael in your prayers as they adventure on a 2-day motor coach getaway to Frankenmuth, Michigan! What more beautiful time of the year to visit Frankenmuth, Michigan, known as "Little Bavaria", when the Autumn leaves are bursting into full color and the Christmas spirit is approaching!

BELONG

PRAYING FOR OUR NATION—September 20

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— September 19

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. A supply of shawls is available in the lobby for members to take and present to someone in need. Direct your questions to Pat Armstrong through the church office.



CALLING ALL PICKLEBALL PLAYERS

FUN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP—September 12 at 6:30p

Join us Tuesday evenings at Lakeside Park for pickle ball! All talent levels are welcome and encouraged! Contact Debbie Gotsch with questions at debbiegotsch@gmail.com.



COFFEE BREAK WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY RETURNS THIS FALL!

Join us the second and fourth Wednesdays starting September 27 at 9:15a for Christian fellowship and the study of God's Word!

ST. MICHAEL FOUNDATION

Past Efforts: We rejoice in the call of Pastor Jonathan Meyer to be the Shepherd of the School. Pastor Meyer attended St. Michael Lutheran Church in his youth and received financial support from your St. Michael Foundation to assist with his seminary expenses in 2012/2013.

Present Efforts: We rejoice in the success of St. Michael Youth Service week in our community in July. Led by DCE Intern Emma Deines, approximately 15 youth served at Shepherd's Hand and St. Michael. This effort was funded with a \$1,000 gift from the Youth Mission Fund of the St. Michael Foundation.

Thank you!

Thank you to all my brothers and sisters in Christ for your prayers and cards for my back surgery. I am continuing to heal and have no pain! Thanks be to God.

Tina Hoover

EMMANUEL-ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Emmanuel - St. Michael exists to nurture children in Christian faith within the context of rigorous academic instruction and guide students to reflect Christ in all relationships.

We believe excellence in education occurs through:

- **Christ-Centered Community** - Following Christ's example of intentional inclusion, forgiveness, encouragement, growth, and faith is central to every day.
- **Lifetime Preparation** - A strong academic program strives to produce tomorrow's Christian leaders.
- **Dynamic Partnerships** - Each family is nurtured with individual attention and care.
- **Excellent Instruction** - Professional educators serve in a state and nationally accredited program.

Emmanuel – St. Michael is an accredited school of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the Indiana Department of Education. We are a Christ-centered community that teaches and responds to the love of the Triune God. Our school accepts and teaches the Bible-based teachings of the LCMS that can be summarized in three phrases: Grace alone, Faith alone, Scripture alone. To learn more about the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod and its' teachings visit www.lcms.org.

WHAT IS A LUTHERAN EDUCATION?

A MESSAGE FROM DR. BEN STELLWAGEN, PRINCIPAL

Pastor John H.C. Fritz authored an essay under the title “Why a Christian School for My Children” more than 60 years ago. The paragraph below captures the essence of his thesis.

“Our Lutheran Church has never underestimated the great value of a good all-around education. Of the right kind of knowledge, we cannot acquire too much. The foundation of a man’s life is laid in his youth. The years of childhood make up the formative period of life. Our boys and girls are our men and women of the coming years. Our future generation will be what our children are today: physically, mentally, morally, spiritually. The purpose of the Christian parochial school in our Lutheran Church is to provide our children with a proper and well-balanced “diet,” to give them what they need for a proper healthy development of the intellect and the soul. To fit them for life.”

Pastor Fritz articulates a mission that helped establish the LCMS as a leader in parochial education decades ago. Today, that same purpose exists. A Lutheran education is one that establishes Christ firmly in the center of life and seeks to connect children and families to the grace freely offered by our Savior. This is done within the context of excellent academic instruction.


Families may identify many and varied reasons for their participation in our school. However, regardless of their reason for attendance, we must not be varied in our purpose for existing. More than at any other time in our nation’s history we need Christian leaders who confidently and consistently are able to go into the world fulfilling the commission of Matthew 28:16-20. This requires a unified commitment to the mission and ministry of ESM and to that end Lutheran education must not water-down, compromise, or waver in our teaching of Christ crucified at all times.

ST. MICHAEL FINANCIAL UPDATE

July 2023

INCOME	Actual	Budgeted	Actual vs budget
Offerings	\$911,703	\$967,692	\$(55,989)
Facility	\$9,568	\$7,292	\$2,276
Interest	\$10,434	\$4,083	\$6,351
Grants	\$2,849	\$17,653	\$(14,804)
Fellowship	\$1,018	\$-	\$1,018
ESM/CLHS Support	\$120	\$-	\$120
Misc.	\$493	\$1,500	\$(1,007)
Total Income	\$936,185	\$998,220	\$(62,035)
EXPENSES			
Missions	\$12,632	\$11,659	\$973
Education	\$383,104	\$383,104	\$-
Youth & Family	\$7,932	\$12,092	\$(4,160)
Administrative	\$22,820	\$20,437	\$2,383
Pastoral Support	\$4,237	\$5,676	\$(1,439)
Worship	\$9,722	\$10,278	\$(556)
Boards & Committees	\$5,223	\$8,554	\$(3,331)
Utilities, Maintenance & Supplies	\$111,913	\$104,434	\$7,479
Salaries	\$324,721	\$332,945	\$(8,224)
Taxes and Benefits	\$97,869	\$103,064	\$(5,195)
Nursery, Gym Setup, Worship	\$4,550	\$4,472	\$78
Total Expenses	\$984,723	\$996,715	\$(11,992)
Net Income (Loss)	\$(48,538)	\$1,505	\$(50,043)

Online Directory
 Did you know that St. Michael has an online directory for members? It is called *Fellowship One Go*. You can download an app to your phone or access it through a browser.

app	browser
 <p>search google play or apple store for fellowship one go and download</p> <p>domain: stmfw.fellowshiponego.com</p> <p>user ID / password – if you don't know it, email tammy@stmfw.org</p>	<p>Stmfw.fellowshiponego.com</p> <p>domain: stmfw</p> <p>user ID / password – if you don't know it, email tammy@stmfw.org</p>



Once logged in, you can view your profile, look up member phone numbers and addresses, view your offering history, and print your statements. If you have any questions or need help setting it up, contact Tammy Bruns at 432-2033 or email tammy@stmfw.org.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH DO WITH THE CONNECT CARDS?

Does it really matter if you fill out a connect card or the "I am here form online?"

The short answer – yes! When you put your name on the card we record attendance and any prayers and thoughts are shared with the prayer team or staff as appropriate. When you fill out these cards, or the online form, it helps us to be able to keep in touch with you through communications that are more relevant to you. It is also a great way to get your thoughts and ideas to us.



PUPPET MINISTRY



Our amazing puppet team is seeking new members! If you are in seventh grade through age 99, love the Lord and are excited about this fun opportunity, please contact Amy Crow at amysboilers8@icloud.com. Practices are on Thursdays from 6:15p-8:00p.

NEWS YOU CAN USE!

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

You are a gift with gifts to share...but do you know what gifts you have? Lutheran Hour Ministries created the EveryGift™ Inventory to help you discover your gifts and how to use them. In addition, LHM partnered with the Barna Group to develop resources for your whole congregation to learn more about gifts together. Learn all about the EveryGift™ Inventory and the resources to go with it at the 2023 Fall LLL Virtual Event on September 20th at 12:00 CDT. For further questions or more information contact Rich Krause at Kraus51@hotmail.com. Online registration ENDS SEPTEMBER 18 at www.lhm.org/III2023.

CTS GUILD

Come Join Us! You are invited to attend the Concordia Theological Seminary Guild on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 1:00 pm in Luther Hall on the campus of CTSFW. The featured speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Pulse, Director of Certification and Placement. Mark your calendar for Donation day on October 10th. For further information, visit semguild@ctsfw.edu.

THE LUTHERAN SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP EVENT

The Lutheran Schools Partnership invites you to their 4th annual Very Important Partnerships event on Saturday, October 7, at the Parkview Mirro Center. The keynote speaker is Dr. Bernard Bull, President of Concordia University Nebraska. Support Lutheran education in Northeast Indiana by purchasing tickets online at www.veryimportantpartnerships.org, or email vip@tlspartnership.org for more information.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF) FOR YOUNG ADULTS 18-35

St. Michael is hosting Young Adult BSF on Monday evenings from 6:45p-8:15p in Luther Hall. Join us for contemporary Christian worship and small group discussion. Discover that the wisdom of the Bible is relevant to every age. BSF is a place to go deeper—to grow in your relationship with God as you navigate the early years of adulthood. Visit join.bsfindernational.org.

STEWARDSHIP with Jon Rinehart/Gospel Patrons

A few years ago I was having coffee with a new friend named Chris Goulard when he said, "The greatest obstacle between people and Jesus in our culture is money." Chris had been a stewardship pastor for years with close access to countless couples about their finances. The rest of our conversation was transformational for me as Chris unpacked Jesus' famous parable of the soils. In the end, what became crystal clear to me was that stewardship is not an optional conversation for a few believers, but a significant aspect of discipleship for all of us. I've recorded the rest of that conversation below. I hope it's helpful.

"The greatest obstacle between people and Jesus in our culture is money."

"That's a strong statement," I responded to Chris, "And I think I agree with you, but unpack that for me. Why do you believe that?"

"That's easy," Chris said. "When I look at Jesus' well known parable of the soils, he clearly tells us what chokes out the word of God from producing thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold fruit in our lives.

"In Mark 4:19 Jesus said, 'The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.'

"At least two and half of those are financial," Chris continued. "Take the cares of the world. What do people care about? Money. When marriages break apart one of the top causes cited are financial differences. Everyone cares about money. So we'll at least count that one as half.

"Deceitfulness of riches. Check. That's a whole."

"And the desires for other things. What does that sound like? Covetousness. Greed. The American Dream of an ever-increasing lifestyle. That's a whole. So at least two and a half of the three kinds of thorns that choke out God's word from bearing fruit in our lives are financial."

I was stunned that I had never seen the parable of the soils quite that way. The more I reflected on it the more I found myself amazed that the word of God can be choked out at all. This is the most powerful force in the world. By his word, God created the world and it's "through the living and abiding word of God" that we are born again. 1 Peter 1:23

But in the parable of the soils, Jesus tells us that God's word can be choked out by money. That changes this conversation about money and generosity because it's not just for a few people who have more money than they know what to do with. All of us want to live fruitful lives.

If we were asked which kind of soil we want to be, I'm sure we'd all say the fourth kind. And yet when we look within our own hearts and around at our culture, we seem to be third soil people. Many of us have received the word, but we're not producing a lot of fruit. And Jesus tells us it's because the word is being choked out by our wrong relationship to money.

"What I tell pastors," Chris went on to say, "is that if the Jones' are sitting in row four in their usual seats while you preach to them week in and week out, but five years later their lives don't look any different, then you're probably not talking about money enough."

If we want fruitful lives, we have to talk about money. Notice that I didn't say we have to think about money. No, we really do need to talk about money with other Christians. I believe this for a couple of reasons.

First, we never change on our own. We always grow and change in community. It's through talking with trusted friends that you and I have experienced some of the greatest light bulb moments of our lives. It's through talking with pastors, counselors, and therapists that many of us have felt the freedom to drag our honest thoughts and experiences into the light of day and begin to change our minds. Change happens when we're together. And nowhere is this more needed than in our relationship with money. Money is our culture's most secret and private topic. Most people will tell you about all kinds of other struggles and addictions they have, but never open up about money.

Second, many of us know the right answers in our minds, but the thorns are very powerful. We cut them away, but they grow back. We hear the truth, but we forget it. We look in the mirror, but then we go away and forget what we looked like. Together we can help each other become doers of the word and not simply hearers on this issue of money and generosity.

So I told Chris, "Okay, I agree with you, but I'd like to add a statement to your sentence. Not only is money the greatest obstacle between people and Jesus in our culture, but it's also the greatest opportunity."

If we get this one thing and our friends get this and our churches get this, then we go from being third soil people to fourth soil people! That means we'll live lives of thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold fruitfulness. I want that for myself and for everyone I know. Let's keep talking about money.

ELDERS

WHO IS YOUR ELDER?

You are encouraged to contact an elder any time you feel a spiritual need or concern! You are free to connect with any elder. If you have an assigned elder and want to know who that is, you may call the church office at 432-2033. Below are the email addresses for all elders. Their phone numbers can be found in F1Go. Information also is available on the church bulletin board! Please do not hesitate to reach out to an elder if you have a spiritual need. They are here to help you.

Craig Patterson

cpatterson@beckmanlawson.com

Ryan Meyer

ryanlmeyer68@gmail.com

Adam Hahn

jjandak@cinergymetro.net

John Baker

jdbake22@gmail.com

John Hein

JHein@brotherhoodmutual.com

John Hendrickson

jlh1051@gmail.com

Keith Miller

keithcherimiller@frontier.com

Mark Muntzinger

mark@marksbodyshopincftw.com

Michael Kuhn

mdkuhn8214@gmail.com

Nathan Nix

nathananix@gmail.com

Paul Selking

pselking1@gmail.com

Jeremy Allyn

energymanallyn@gmail.com

Bob Cole

bob51cole@aol.com

Al Claus

aclaus4@yahoo.com

Steve Manges

slmanges@gmail.com



GOD'S BLESSINGS ON OUR SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES!

God's blessings to...	Day	Years	God's blessings to...	Day	Years
Phillip and Sharon McGlothlin	9/1	56	Anthony and Jessica Christman	9/16	6
Scott and Lara Stuteville	9/2	28	Sam and Debra Parkison	9/16	44
Randy and Silvia Grote	9/3	35	Mike and Deb Oetting	9/18	47
Rick and Kathleen Wilson	9/3	46	Paul and Kimberly Smith	9/18	24
Stacey and Justin Castleman	9/5	3	Dennis and Lynette Brink	9/20	54
Seth and Kim Ziegel	9/7	16	Randy and Jan Fillmore	9/22	39
David and Machel Thomas	9/8	33	Steve and Jane Henschen	9/23	28
Melvin and Charlotte Kiessling	9/11	58	Brian and Cheryl Corajod	9/26	36
Kris and Rachel Sprunger	9/13	9	Sean and Monica LaLonde	9/26	25
Bruce and Jennifer Slazyk	9/14	21	Spencer and Bailey Straessle	9/26	3
Gary and Sandra Fredrickson	9/15	50	Randy and Eileen Witzigreuter	9/26	43
Jim and Kathy Mutton	9/15	42	Daire and Heather Moloney	9/27	15
Chad and Heather Pieper	9/15	22	Aaron and Melissa Cecil	9/29	16
Karen and Daniel Stir	9/15	50	Darren and Julie Stoody	9/30	23
Mike and Lyn Wittwer	9/15	39			

SEPTEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS



We will celebrate baptism birthdays on September 16/17. Please celebrate
 Brenden Butler, Leah Daseler, Carter Derr,
 Ross Fieldhouse, Luka Fillmore, Alexis Harrison, Connor Hathaway,
 Samantha Hetrick, Knox Roehm, Walker Runyan, Decker Scherer,
 Henrick Sorlie, Ryleigh Stiffler, and Ella Wren.

SEPTEMBER MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

God's blessings to: Nila Goshert, 9/8, 93; Bette Kendall, 9/8, 98; Helen McDowell, 9/14, 80;
 Sandy Dent, 9/16, 80; Dorothy Ecenbarger, 9/18, 95; Carol Hilkey, 9/18, 80; Belva Patterson, 9/20, 82;
 Bob Zinn, 9/20, 85; and Bill Barlow, 9/29, 86.

GOOD INFORMATION TO KNOW!



Party at the Park, the LSSI annual fundraiser, will be held on Thursday, October 5 at Promenade Park. Your support of this event will allow individuals and families participating in LSSI programs to:

- Establish and work toward goals that increase their economic stability
- Improve relationships and family stability by building key parenting skills
- Understand their individual value and worth which then increases their contribution to the area's workforce. Save the date!

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

EMMANUEL-ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEEKEND



September 16/17

We will celebrate this fantastic school ministry!

All second graders will receive a Bible.

All sixth graders will receive Luther's Small Catechism.

Our dedicated ESM teachers will be introduced.

Emmanuel-St. Michael faculty and grades P-8 will sing in the 10:45a service.

REFORMATION WEEKEND

October 28/19

GO AND SERVE

October TBD

ALL SAINTS WEEKEND

November 4/5

If you have Christian friends or relatives who died in the faith in this past year, we would like to honor them.

Please email their full name and date of death to Tina@stmfw.org.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Sunday, November 19, at 10:45a

New members will formally be welcomed into the St. Michael family.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

Sunday, November 19, 5:00-7:00p

Our semi-annual meeting agenda will include ministry updates and approving a ministry budget for 2024.

Childcare will be provided during the meal and meeting.

THANKSGIVING EVE AND DAY

Wednesday, November 22, 7:00p

Thursday, November 23, 10:00a

