

APRIL

ST. MICHAEL NEWSLETTER



EVERYTHING in our life, as followers of
Jesus, hinges on His resurrection!

CONNECT with Pastor Goff

By the time you read this, Easter will have come and gone. Because Easter Sunday was the last day of March (31), here we are in April! For many of you, the first week of April means Spring Break from school and you are likely off on a family trip. When I asked the seventh grade religion class I've been teaching about their spring break vacation plans, the responses varied from northern Indiana to Paris and places in between.

April also means the beginning of warmer weather, although we really can't complain about the weather this winter. The daffodils were already in bloom well before the first day of Spring (March 19). For school families, April also means you are in the final stretch of the school year. For some, that means thoughts of graduation, summer jobs, travel sports, or time at the lake. In many ways, the season of Spring is a time of fresh air and renewed hope.



But as far as life in the church and our life as followers of Jesus, **I think this season means something more.** And it's not just the season of Spring that happens this time of year, so does Easter. And, as far as Easter and the resurrection of Jesus is concerned, **EVERYTHING we do as Christians is a response to what Easter means.** EVERYTHING!

In fact, I've often thought that our annual stewardship emphasis should be in the spring. Why? **The giving of our gifts to the Lord is a resurrection response.** Likewise, the church's annual ministry plan is probably best shared this time of the year. Why? **Any plans for ministry should always be a resurrection response.** The church's annual mission plans should probably be communicated this time of the year. Why? **The church's mission is a resurrection response.** Our commitment to Christian education (both church and school) could actually be highlighted now (rather than in the Fall). Why? **Growing in our faith is a resurrection response.**

For obvious reasons, not everything about ministry conveniently lines up this time of the year like I'm suggesting. But nevertheless, I hope you get the idea. **If it were not for the resurrection of Jesus, who we are and what we do and how we do it and when we do it wouldn't mean anything.** It's why the apostle Paul wrote what we did in 1 Corinthians 15:

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Paul's point:

EVERYTHING in our life as followers of Jesus hinges on the resurrection of Jesus . . . EVERYTHING.

Easter services may be a time when irregular attenders join us in worship. That's always great! This year, however, there may be a few less people in worship on Easter, as some families have already started their spring break trip. Whether we're in church or not, the faith you and I confess in Jesus and the life we live as followers of Jesus is because of one reason and one reason only – EVERYTHING flows out of the resurrection of Jesus. That means we actually celebrate the resurrection of Jesus every day!

Ongoing Easter blessings!

Pastor Goff

Please note the church office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 1

CONNECT with Pastor Shawn

THE BRIDGE MINISTRY

Loving Your Neighbor: Lessons from Mr. Rogers

March 20th is celebrated by some as "Be A Good Neighbor Day," coinciding with the birth of the beloved TV personality, Mr. Fred Rogers, in 1928. Reflecting on his life and teachings, I recently had a conversation with a young man about the challenge of sharing our faith in today's world.

Mr. Rogers, known for his show's focus on empathy, compassion, forgiveness, and love, was also an ordained pastor. Despite not having a TV show or a huge platform, we can learn from his example of living out his call in everyday life.

The young man I spoke with asked, "**How do I share my faith with people who don't get it?**" This question reflects a common struggle for many Christians today—how to authentically live out their faith in a postmodern culture.

My response to him was simple: Hold onto your convictions and share them in a way that reflects your point of view. Instead of imposing your beliefs on others, share them as a personal reflection. Using statements like, "This is what I believe" or "This is how I think about that..." rather than "Here is what you should believe..." or "That's not what I was taught..." And recognizing times and places where you can share personal accounts of empathy, compassion, love, and forgiveness (like Mr. Rogers did.) This approach allows you to be a witness, as Jesus describes in Acts 1:8. **People will notice how your beliefs align with your actions, and this can open doors to spiritual conversations.**

I followed up with the young man a week later, and he shared that he had a meaningful spiritual conversation with a coworker, sparked by sharing his beliefs in a non-confrontational manner.

In a world where genuine connections are rare, let us learn from Mr. Rogers' example and strive to be good neighbors by living out our faith with love, grace, and humility.

Love, grace, and humility

GO AND SERVE

Saturday, April 27 | 9:00a-12:00p

Join us as we "go and serve" our community and church as we share the story of God's love and forgiveness. **We will be helping:**

- **The Shepherd's Hand Outreach Center** prepare for their 5k run (see page 4 for details) and other activities.
- **Camp Lutherhaven** prepare for a new season of camp.
- **St. Michael** prepare for Confirmation Sunday on May 5 and VBS in June.

Please register at stmfw.org/events.

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS

On March 18, we were blessed to host Sarah, Nathan, and Enoch Federwitz as they shared their journey to become career missionaries with Lutheran Bible Translators. Nathan is a pilot, currently working with JAARS to train for flying in remote conditions. Sarah is learning how to support Bible Translators and care for teams that are overseas. Late this summer they will learn where they are going to serve and begin specific training for that people group. As they lean into what God is calling them to do they are asking for support through prayer. <https://lbt.org/project/nathan-sarah-federwitz/>

YOUNG ADULT GATHERINGS

The Bridge Ministry is working towards helping young adults connect deeper into God's Word and to each other. Our next gathering is Sunday, April 28 from 3:00p-5:00p. If you know someone who might be interested, feel free to pass along the information or let me (Pastor Shawn) know and I will connect with them to personally invite them!

COACHING

Often we can feel stuck and not know how to move forward with something in our lives. If that is you, life coaching may be beneficial.

Learn more at pastordavis@stmfw.org

BLESSING HIS WORLD

REDEMPTION HOUSE MINISTRY

Redemption House is a network of transition homes for women who desire to redeem their lives from past destructive behavior by developing a faith-based lifestyle and by gaining the skills necessary to achieve and maintain success. **St. Michael will celebrate this ministry in our worship services on May 11/12. We will also host a pancake breakfast to benefit their mission trip (see below)! Join us from 7:00a-10:00a in the gym. A free-will offering will be gathered.**

St. Michael will provide a meal and Christian community at Wayne Street and Fairfield Avenue on April 21. If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, please contact Linda Chapman at 417-3052.

BUTTERFLY GALA

The Redemption House will be having their second annual **Butterfly Gala** on Tuesday, April 23 at the Grand Wayne Center. Details are on the church bulletin board!



MISSION TRIP

Redemption House is always seeking to help our residents and graduates grow in their faith, develop new perspectives, and take steps towards goals they never thought were possible. In 2023, we launched our Missions Program to give graduates a once in a lifetime opportunity to deepen their faith by traveling out of the country in order to serve other people in the name of Jesus Christ. This year we are excited to announce that we have 4 graduates, several staff, and partners from Bridge of Grace Ministry all going on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic this June. The team will be serving at a church in a small community to host a women's retreat for the local ladies. Most Dominicans will never get the opportunity to attend a spiritual retreat, and we are excited to be able to provide this spiritual rejuvenation for a handful of women. The team will also work on some construction projects, and provide fellowship and encouragement to the local missionaries with whom they are partnering. Thank you, St. Michael's, for partnering with us to make this faith-growing opportunity available to our Redemption House Graduates!

THE SHEPHERD'S HAND COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

The Shepherd's Hand Community Outreach Center located at 1231 S. Anthony Blvd. is an LCMS organization that seeks opportunities to enhance health and wellness for community members in southeast Fort Wayne. By providing healthy cooking classes, distributing diapers, and connecting people to services through quarterly health fairs, Shepherd strives to fulfill the mission of *'reaching out in the city by caring for the Shepherd's people, daring to be the Shepherd's hands, and sharing the Shepherd's love.'* **St. Michael will celebrate this ministry in our worship services on April 27/28.**

THE SHEPHERD'S HAND ANNUAL 5K WALK/RUN—Saturday, May 4

Help raise funds for this vital ministry by participating in the 4th annual 5K walk/run held in the neighborhood surrounding the center. **Families** are encouraged to attend and enjoy a fun, healthy activity together!

Registrations are \$25, and participants will receive a T-shirt as long as supplies last. Children 8 and under are free. If you are unable to participate in the race, you can support the ministry by sponsoring a race slot to benefit another participant or make a general donation. For more information and to sign up or donate scan the QR code!



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

You are invited to the Indiana Lutheran Women in Mission District Convention!

When: June 21-23 **Where:** Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center, Danville, Indiana

If interested, please contact Linda Chapman at 260-417-3052.

CONNECT with Stephanie Maxson

*Jesus Christ is risen today, **Alleluia!** Our triumphant holy day, **Alleluia!**
Who did once up on the cross, **Alleluia!**; suffer to redeem our loss **Alleluia!***

A few weeks ago I was teaching a fourth grade choir class when a student shook his head at me and said, “Mrs. Maxson, you just said the ‘a’ word”. I was pretty shocked as well, as I tried to retrace my words.....I didn’t think I had used any forbidden words.....and then I remembered that we were in the season of lent. During the six weeks of lent we refrain from singing the ‘a’ word; *alleluia*, which means praise the Lord! Why? During lent we focus on repentance, realizing the weight of our sin and its ultimate consequence; death. But we also look forward to the great VICTORY celebration of our Savior and King, the resurrected JESUS who has forever defeated death and paid the price for our sins. Easter hymns are full of ALLELUIA’s as we give all praise and honor to JESUS! So sing loudly and often, *alleluia*, praise the Lord for all He has done!



*Hymns of praise then let us sing, **Alleluia!** Unto Christ our heavenly King, **Alleluia!**
Who endured the cross and grave, **Alleluia!** Sinners to redeem and save, **Alleluia!***

*Sing we to our God above, **Alleluia!** Praise eternal as His love, **Alleluia!**
Praise Him all ye heavenly host, **Alleluia!** Father, Son and Holy Ghost, **Alleluia!***

THANK YOU INSTRUMENTALISTS!

Thank you to our amazing instrumentalists who added so much energy and joy to our Easter celebrations! Our orchestra will continue to meet this month to prepare **Confirmation on Sunday, May 5 at 10:45a**. Here are the upcoming rehearsals: **Thursday, April 18 and 25 at 6:00p** and **Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00p**. Contact our worship director, Stephanie Maxson at stephanie@stmfw.org for a set of music.

CHOIR REHEARSALS CONTINUE THROUGH WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

We have entered into the final stretch of our choir season, and would love to have you join us as we prepare for weekend services including Confirmation and work on music we will sing over the summer. Starting April 10 the (SATB) Adult Choir will meet weekly on Wednesday’s from 7:00p-8:30p in the sanctuary through May 22. The Men’s Choir (TTBB) will meet at 6:30p on Wednesday April 17, May 1, and May 15. The Women’s Choir (SSAA) will meet at 6:30p on Wednesday April 10, April 24, May 8, and May 22.

SATURDAY PRAISE BANDS

April 6 Life Song

April 13 New Song

April 20 King’s Strings

April 27 Life Song

ACADEMY NEWS

Thank you to all who attended the Annual Academy Fundraiser!

Some highlights:

- Chef Terry’s amazing food and Barry Shoaff’s wonderful baked goodies
 - 16 students shared their musical talents
 - Over 90 people attended
- \$2000 was raised for scholarships and supplies for our Academy and Fine Arts Camp.

Register for Summer Lessons at academy.stmfw.org/register

CONNECT with Stephanie Maxson continued

“IMAGINE” FINE ARTS CAMP (FAC) JUNE 24-28

The Fine Arts Camp is a week-long summer day camp at St. Michael Lutheran Church that provides an opportunity for youth to connect faith, creativity and community. The camp will be June 24-28 from 9:00a-3:30p with child care available before and after the camp. Participants will choose from electives including drawing, chimes, creative writing, drama, dance, sewing, fiber arts, and more!

Register at <https://stmfw.org/fineartscamp>. The link also has Frequently Asked Questions, a daily schedule, cost, and more information about the electives that are offered. Hope to see you at FAC this summer!

WE NEED PUPPETEERS!

Have you ever wanted to become involved with something fun and creative? Are you available to practice on Thursday's from 6:30p-8:00p? Are you available to perform for VBS from 8:30a-9:30a, June 17-25? The puppets and VBS need YOU!!! No experience needed, we will train you. We are in need of 4-8 people. Text or call Amy Crow at 459-9320.

70th JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

JUBILEE DECADE II (1965-1974)

Do you have pictures, memories, or stories, from the years 1965-1974 at St. Michael? We are getting ready to share about these years and need your help! You can either drop off info. at the church office or set up a time to share your memories in person by contacting Stephanie Maxson at stephanie@stmfw.org. Thanks for your help in passing on the history of St. Michael!



JUBILEE IN APRIL - KNOWING WHO AND WHOSE WE ARE!

We continue to celebrate 70 years of St. Michael! As we grow together through celebrations and spiritual practices while sharing the story of what God has done and is doing through His people. As a part of our celebration we want to emphasize the fact that we are God's people and we are God's church.

Throughout the Month of April, we will see trivia in the bulletins, get our pictures in the database, and enjoy pictures from the second decade of St. Michael, all culminating in a celebration event. Join us in celebrating our "Identity in Christ" at our second **70th Jubilee event on Sunday, April 28th beginning at 4:30p**. This family event will include an hour of fun, family oriented activity, a meal beginning at 5:30p, and our regularly scheduled voters' meeting beginning at 6:00p. Childcare will be provided during the voters' meeting for families with young children. We will acknowledge how we are uniquely gifted by God as individuals, how we collectively are the body of Christ at St. Michael, and we will celebrate our identity in Christ.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION AT CAMP LUTERHAVEN

As a part of our year of Jubilee we will get to experience a fantastic weekend at Camp Lutherhaven on June 8/9. Any St. Michael members are welcome to [sign-up](https://stmfw.org/register) at stmfw.org/register. Throughout the weekend we will be able to enjoy lake activities, participate in some great camp crafts and games, as well as enjoy some good campfire food, and don't forget an evening Campfire Devotion with S'mores.

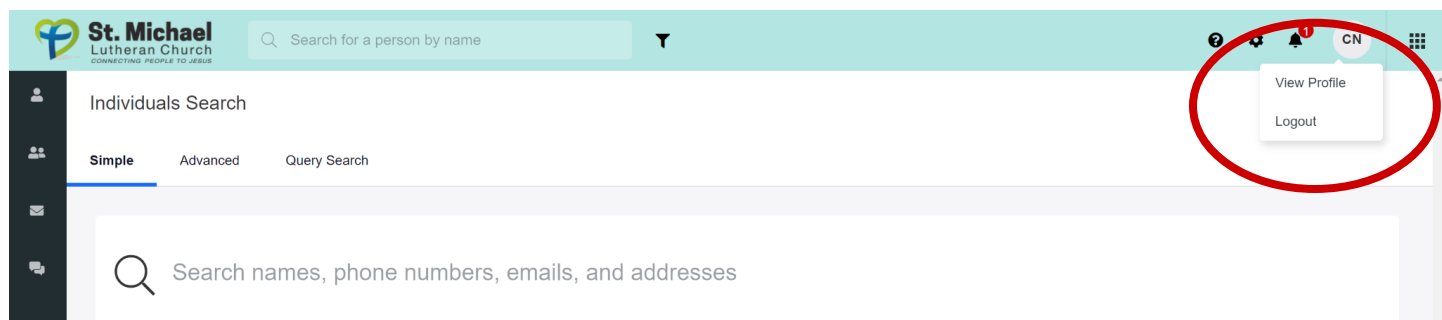
CONNECT with Celine Newman

WHO'S WHO AT ST. MICHAEL?

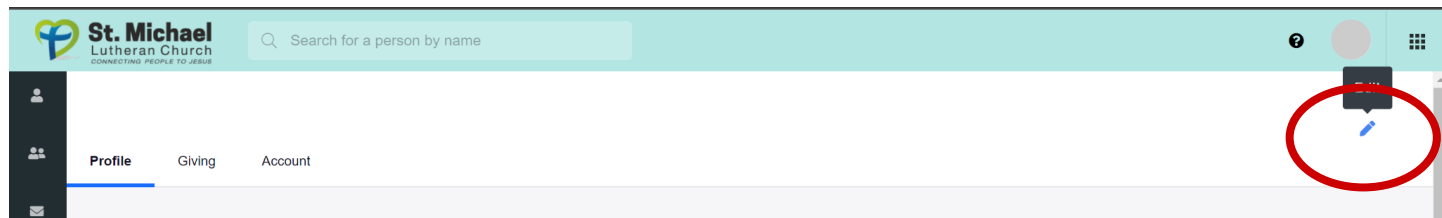
Did you know that you can put your picture in St. Michael's database, Fellowship1Go? It's true! Having your picture in the database makes it more likely that someone will be able to contact you making our database more usable for our congregation.

Throughout the month of April, we will have a photo booth setup where you and your family can get your picture put directly into the database. No need to sign up ahead of time, just stop by on a Saturday or Sunday before or after worship and we will take a moment to take your picture and upload it into the database.

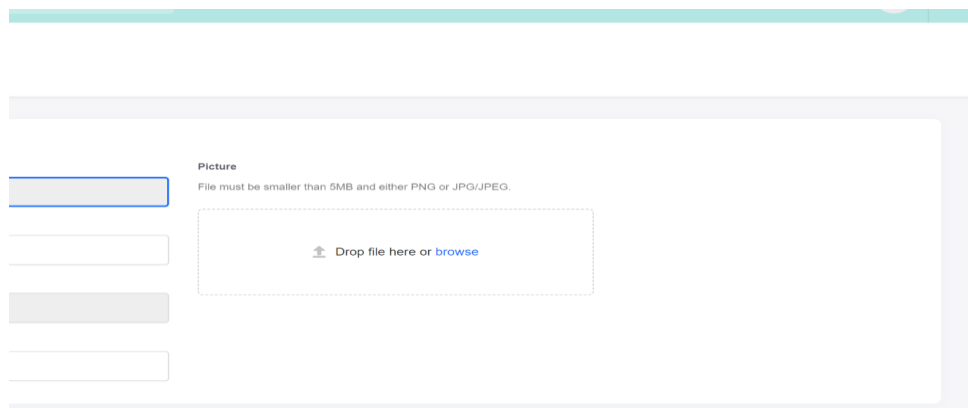
You can also select your own picture to upload. On the computer you can sign into <https://stmfw.fellowshiponego.com/> and select your own profile.



Then select the "edit" icon in the upper right hand corner.



Then you can upload your picture in the box on the right.



If you use the phone app you can "click" on your picture or the icon of a person and upload your photo there.

What about a Church Directory? Great question! We will be working towards getting together a new church directory this Fall. Stay on the lookout for more information late this summer.

YOUTH with Emma Deines

IDENTITY - KNOWING WHOSE YOU ARE

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

In today’s world, there are so many clubs, teams, and extracurricular activities to choose from. It can be hard trying to decide and find where you belong. But as I look at 1 Peter 2:9 I am reminded that we are CHOSEN! You are God’s special possession! Our identity isn’t found in what we wear or in the activities that we do, but our identity is found in our baptism. By God’s grace, we are saved and because of him, we know who we are, forgiven and loved children of God.

St. Michael’s Youth Ministry offers students a variety of opportunities from Youth Nights, to small groups, and fellowship events. Youth can come together and spend time in the Word and grow together as they continue to go the path of discipleship. I invite you to take a look at all the wonderful events we have coming up. Whether you are a frequent attendee or you have never been before, I invite you to come and see what STMFY Youth is all about!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH!

Thank you to everyone who purchased an Easter Pie! Your donations will help our Youth share the Light of Christ in North Carolina this summer and in New Orleans next summer. We have a few more fundraising opportunities coming up, take a look!



PARENT’S NIGHT OUT! KID SITTING OPPORTUNITY!

On April 12 and May 10 from 6:00p-9:00p, drop off children 2 years old through fifth grade and enjoy a night out! This is a free-will offering/fundraiser to support our St. Michael Youth 2024 Servant Event. Children will enjoy a night of games, snacks, and fun! To sign up or ask questions please email DCE Emma at emma@stmfy.org.

SPRING CLEANING HELP AVAILABLE!

The St. Michael Youth would like to help you with your Spring Cleaning! Contact DCE Emma at emma@stmfy.org with any of your spring cleaning needs. This event will be a fundraiser for our youth heading to North Carolina this summer and for the 2025 National Youth Gathering. We want to help serve you as you have supported our youth!



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

YOUTH NIGHTS! “FIND YOUR IDENTITY”

Youth Nights are held on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. Middle School is from 4:00p-6:00p and High School is from 6:00p-8:00p! Learn more about “whose you are” in Christ! Join us April 7/21 and May 5/May 19 for Amazing Race 2024!

BUILDING A YOUTH TEAM!

Young Adults, Parents, and members of St. Michael, we are looking at building some volunteer teams to help with our Youth Nights. If you are interested in helping with Middle or High School Youth please contact DCE Emma at emma@stmfy.org.

YOUTH with Emma Deines continued

CONFIRMATION CONNECT

"Confirmation Connect" is a time for eighth grade students and parents to meet with DCE Emma, play games, have snacks, and get to know one another. "Connect" is every Tuesday from 3:00p - 5:30p at Union Street Market at Electric Works. Join us to find out who will be the next Spoons Champion!

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHT! —April 16 from 6:00p-8:00p

High School Youth join us for a delicious meal, exciting games, and a devotion! Are there any games you like to play?



YOUTH SHOUT OUT!

**To all the 8th grade Confirmation students: Well done on your Witness Speeches!
We are praying for you as you continue on your journey of faith.**

Do you know a Middle or High School Youth who need a shout out? Maybe they won a scholarship or award or maybe they participated in community service. Whatever they did, we would like to give them a SHOUT OUT in our newsletter. Please send a brief description to DCE Emma (emma@stmfw.org) along with a picture and we will give your youth a SHOUT OUT for all the amazing work they are doing.

CLHS

CLHS SUMMER PROGRAMS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Registration is now open for summer camps and classes at Concordia! CLHS hosts a number of Summer Camps and Summer Academic programs for students of all ages (K-12 during the 2023-24 school year). Camps range from sports to computers to band and drama. There's something for everyone! And if you're looking to get ahead on your classes, sign up for one of our Academic programs. Classes are available onsite or online. Students from all schools in grades 8-12 are welcome! We are offering an online registration and payment system for all Summer Camps and Classes through CampBrain. To learn more about our summer programs or to register, go to: clhscadets.com/apps/pages/summer-at-clhs

Payment is due at the time of Registration. Many camps offer a t-shirt to campers, included in their registration fees. The registration deadline to be guaranteed a t-shirt is May 10. After that date, a t-shirt is not guaranteed. For any questions, please contact our athletics office at 969-6868 or athletics@clhscadets.com. For questions regarding the summer classes, please call Nancy Koehler, summer classes coordinator, at 483-1102, ext. 313 or email nkoehler@clhscadets.com.

CLHS TRIVIA NIGHT MOVES TO APRIL

Originally slated as a Fall event, Trivia Night will now be taking place in the Spring! On Friday, April 12, have a blast with friends and put your knowledge to the test at our CLHS Trivia Night! The entry fee per couple is \$50 or bring an in-kind donation of \$50+ value. All donations will support the Cadets in Cadence Silent Auction later this year. Register your team today at clhscadets.com/apps/pages/trivia-night

CONCORDIA THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS: *MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION*

Saturday, April 20 at 7:30p and Sunday, April 21 at 2:00p

A century's worth of sibling squabbles is boiled down into ten vignettes in this era-hopping tribute to family. Each short play explores a distinct facet of brother and sisterhood, from fights over who caused mom and dad to split to daring escape plots that only two sisters could pull off. No matter the decade, audiences will see themselves in these ten distinct shorts about the undeniable bond between siblings through the ages. This comedy is directed by Mr. Chris Murphy.

FAMILY MINISTRY *with Jen Clendenen*

THE EGGSTRODDINARY EASTER JUBILEE!



The St. Michael Easter Jubilee was truly a memorable and joyful event that brought our congregation together in celebration of the Easter season. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended, donated candy, and participated in the various activities that made the morning so special.

From the crafts and Easter egg hunts to the photo opportunities, skits, Sunday School songs, and scavenger hunt, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The sticky hand face-offs were a hit, and we all learned important lessons about the significance of sticking with Jesus in our daily lives.

A special shout out to our dedicated youth group who led the morning events with enthusiasm. They truly went above and beyond in their bunny ears, helping with crafts, managing the candy bar, taking pictures, hiding Easter eggs, and ensuring that everyone had a fantastic time.

It was heartwarming to see the gym packed with members of our congregation. As we navigate through the busyness of life, it is essential to prioritize fun and fellowship within our families and church community. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 reminds us of the value of companionship and unity, highlighting the benefits of engaging in social activities and maintaining strong connections.** Studies have shown that interactions with others lead to improved mental health, decreased stress levels, and overall well-being. We are immensely grateful for your commitment to showing up, engaging in activities, and fostering connections within our church family. Your presence not only strengthens our bonds with one another but also contributes to the vitality of our church community as a whole. Your willingness to participate in the various events and gatherings demonstrates the power of community, support, and togetherness that sustains us through all seasons of life.

As we move forward, let us continue to prioritize relationships, nurture connections, and embrace moments of joy and togetherness within our families and church community. Thank you for being an integral part of our congregation and for embodying the spirit of fun and fellowship with open hearts.

Psalm 118:24 reminds us to rejoice and be glad in each day that the Lord has made. Let us celebrate Christ's victory over death on Easter morning and remember to stick with Jesus in all aspects of our lives. May this Easter season be filled with joy, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to love and faith as we journey together in our walk with Jesus. Thank you for your unwavering support and for making the event so Eggciting for all who attended.

2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 17 - 21 from 9:00a - Noon

Kids will be challenged as they discover that God's truth never changes, everyone needs Jesus, and learn to speak the truth in love. Adventure awaits each day as kids explore tide pools, spot orcas, fly kites, and watch the mighty waves crash up against the immovable Breaker Rock!

All children age 3 through 5th grade (2024-25 school year) are invited to journey with us to Breaker Rock. **Click here to register by June 5.**

To make this a success, we need donated items (check out our Amazon wish list) and lots of volunteers! Anyone in 6th grade or older is welcome! **Click here to discover more about the available roles. Click here to sign-up.**

JOIN THE VBS DECORATING COMMITTEE!

The fun is beginning! Join us in Luther Hall on **April 13 and 20 from 9:00a-4:00p** to make decorations for the big event in June! Questions? Contact Carrie Gould at carrie.gould1137@yahoo.com.



BELONG

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

Thursday, April 11 (11:00a)

Join us for lunch at Pizza Hut-Coventry. Donnie Foster will be joining us to update on his mission "Misfits". Donnie is the subject of the books "Face Down: The Donnie Foster Story", and "Face Down...but God". Reservations are requested. Call Penny Pequignot at 260-580-8730 by April 4. Individual orders will be placed at the restaurant.

Thursday, May 9 (12:00p)

Join us for lunch and a movie. The scheduled movie is "What if.....". It's a funny, heartwarming story centering on the question "What if God gave you a second chance?" Reservations are requested. Please call Penny Pequignot at 260-580-8730 by May 1.

Tuesday, June 18 (7:05p)

"SAVE THE DATE" for the annual Tin Caps Game on Tuesday, June 18. The entire congregation is invited and tickets are \$14.00. It is Parkview Field Tuesday \$2.00 night.

GAP MINISTRY—April 20/21

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

PRAYING FOR OUR NATION—April 3/10

Join us at 1:00p 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— April 2/16

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.

COFFEE BREAK WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—April 10/24



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

BOOK CLUB—Thursday, April 18

This month we are reading *The Housemaids* by Freida McFadden. Contact Camille Blake at 409-9196 with questions.

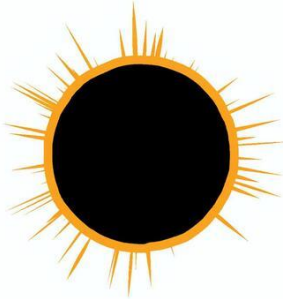
EMMANUEL-ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

EAGLES RISE RECAP



What a night it was to celebrate all that God has done and is doing at Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School at our annual Eagles Rise dinner auction! You can't make this up: we met the goal of funds raised with \$124,252 - incredible! With The Lutheran Foundation school support and endowment matching grants, ESM is blessed with \$220,252 in support to deliver our mission now and enhance its future! In addition to the endowment, Eagles Rise will be able to fund new bleachers at the Union campus and new interactive View Boards for the Getz campus! Special thanks to our event sponsor, SYM Financial for their generous support to make this evening a success. To all of our ESM supporters, we are blessed by you... and immeasurably more than we can imagine! (Eph. 3:20-21)

ECLIPSE VIEWING



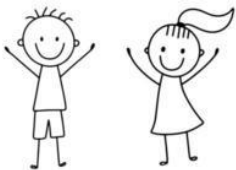
To allow staff and students to experience the solar eclipse with their families, the ESM School Board voted that there will be **NO SCHOOL on Monday, April 8**. We will provide educational materials, resources, and learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom for children to explore and enjoy regarding the eclipse. They will simply not be assessed or marked for attendance on April 8, and the day will not be made up. Functionally, this extends your spring break! With it, we hope you take the opportunity to marvel, awe, and wonder at God's created order!! (And to join us in praying for no clouds...) What an incredible God, who not only conquered death but also created life!!!

ESM SEEKING BASKETBALL CAMP SPONSORSHIPS



Over the last 25 years, our summer basketball camp has asked for and received great support from ESM family businesses that have contributed to different projects in our school. We have been able to give scholarships to camp, put up new side baskets, contribute to our school library program, etc. This year's camp is July 15-19 and we are again asking for donations of \$200. Your business logo will then be placed on the back of about 120 t-shirts that are given to all of the participants. The money made through these donations will provide additional funds for a project at ESM. If you would like to give a donation or need more information, please contact Coach Eggold at 580-2528. Thank you for considering a contribution to this year's ESM Summer Basketball Program.

PRESCHOOL PARENTS



Save the Date! Cocoa, Coffee and Conversation - Join other preschool families for an opportunity to meet and visit after morning drop off (note April 11 is a late start day). Parents with children currently enrolled in preschool at ESM (both campuses) and parents who have new students enrolled in preschool or kindergarten for 2024 are invited to attend. Children who are not in school are welcome to come play. Mrs. Ackmann and Mrs. Clark will be available to visit during this time. If anyone would like to stay in Luther Hall until preschool pick up time at 12:30p is welcome to do so.

What: Cocoa, Coffee + Conversation

Who: Parents of Preschoolers and Parents of Future Kindergarteners

Where: Getz Campus Luther Hall

When: Thursday, April 11, 10:30a-11:30a

ST. MICHAEL FINANCIAL UPDATE

MANY THANKS TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TAMMY BRUNS!

In her position on our church staff for the last seven years, Tammy has touched nearly every aspect of the daily operation of St. Michael's ministry. We have been blessed! St. Michael sends best wishes and God's blessings to Tammy as she begins a new position with Brotherhood Mutual. Over the next several weeks, please take time to express appreciation to Tammy for her valuable service to the ministry of our church. Her last day of work at St. Michael will be April 19, yet we are thankful that Tammy, her husband Rick and daughter Alexis will remain connected to St. Michael as their church family.

February 2024

| INCOME | Actual | Budgeted | Actual vs budget |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Offerings | \$272,890 | \$263,258 | \$9,632 |
| Facility | \$856 | \$2,163 | \$(1,307) |
| Interest | \$3,879 | \$3,750 | \$129 |
| Grants | \$11,850 | \$11,850 | \$- |
| Fellowship | \$1,290 | \$100 | \$1,190 |
| ESM/CLHS Support | \$40 | \$- | \$40 |
| Misc. | \$- | \$- | \$- |
| Total Income | \$290,805 | \$281,121 | \$9,684 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Missions | \$1,241 | \$3,704 | \$(2,463) |
| Education | \$111,926 | \$111,926 | \$- |
| Youth & Family | \$828 | \$1,800 | \$(972) |
| Administrative | \$5,505 | \$5,375 | \$130 |
| Pastoral Support | \$2,263 | \$2,233 | \$30 |
| Worship | \$2,843 | \$1,995 | \$848 |
| Boards & Committees | \$1,971 | \$2,292 | \$(321) |
| Utilities, Maintenance & Supplies | \$33,636 | \$27,856 | \$5,780 |
| Salaries | \$90,115 | \$91,885 | \$(1,770) |
| Taxes and Benefits | \$30,851 | \$31,802 | \$(951) |
| Nursery, Gym Setup, Worship | \$450 | \$1,300 | \$(850) |
| Total Expenses | \$281,629 | \$282,168 | \$(539) |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$9,176 | \$(1,047) | \$10,223 |

FACILITIES REVIEW TASK FORCE

St. Michael has long been considering our facility needs, both in the church and school wings. In recent years, the congregation has identified priorities including meeting rooms, music space, offices, updated kitchen appliances, an accessible nursery, and a secure ESM entrance.

Since February a task force has been meeting to address these needs and develop a vision and plan for the future. This task force includes Tammy Bruns, Ron Menze, Stephanie Maxson, Peter Clendenen, Ross Fredrickson, Zach Evans, Keri Latin, Jennifer Ackmann, Dr. Ben Stellwagen, Rhonda Patterson and Pastor Dennis Goff.

Stay tuned for updates as this committee continues the exploratory process!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I get my 2023 Offering Statement?

1. Check your email. Statements were emailed on January 25.
2. If you can't find it, check out the instructions below or email jmlee3@gmail.com.

How do I increase my online offering?

You can email our financial secretary at jmlee3@gmail.com with the following information:

- The current amount and the new amount you want to increase it to
- The effective date of the increase

Why did my online offering remain the same even though I increased my 2024 pledge from 2023?

- First, thank you for committing to support St. Michael Ministries. Your pledge does not give us authority to increase or decrease your offerings. We are happy to assist you, but we will need you to email jmlee3@gmail.com with the current offering, new offering, and effective date.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Tammy Bruns, Executive Director, at tammy@stmfw.org.

STEWARDSHIP

ASK THE EXPERT WORKSHOP—Thursday, May 2 at 11:30a and 6:30p

Everyone is invited to ask questions about financial planning, estate planning, updating your will, guardianship issues and more. Our panel includes Estate Attorney Mark Witmer, Certified Financial Planner Chip Olson, Foundation Advisor Ron Menze, and Pastor Dennis Goff. Join us for a (free) boxed lunch at 11:30a or snacks at 6:30p. **Please register at stmfw.org/events.**



LEGACY PLANNING IS AN ACT OF LOVE

Adapted from LHM.ORG Spring 2024

We've all heard horror stories about people who pass away without a will. At best, it leads to confusion. At worst, it results in heartache. Putting together a legacy plan now ensures your financial house is in order, your final wishes are clear, and your family is saved from additional stress and expense.

Your will is an opportunity to communicate with your loved ones, both in heartfelt words and in how you choose to share God's blessings, what's most important to you: your faith, guiding principles, values, and beliefs.

What better gift to give than one that makes God's love known in word and deed? That's the impact you have when you leave a gift in your will to St. Michael. Your loving generosity embodies Jesus' words in John 13: "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Sentimental cards and bouquets of roses will always have their place. Along with these tokens of love, remember that a purposeful legacy plan is a loving expression of your heart.

MENTAL WELLNESS

ST. MICHAEL MENTAL HEALTH SERIES – April 16 at 6:30

The final presentation this Spring in our community mental health series is titled, "**Faith, Hope & Healing: Suicide Prevention in the Faith Community.**" The presenter will be Alice Jordan from the Behavioral Health and Family Studies Institute at Purdue University Fort Wayne. Alice is active in the Indiana Suicide Prevention Coalition, the Indiana State LOSS Team Network and is a QPR Master Trainer in suicide prevention. Her presentation will focus on increasing awareness, establishing healthy networks, and providing practical strategies for suicide prevention.

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING—Thursday, April 18, 6:00p-8:00p

Join us in Luther Hall for this important life-saving training presented by Alicia Levitt of The Lutheran Schools Partnership. **Question, Persuade, and Refer** training enables you to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to help. This free training is limited to 30 people. **Register before April 11 at stmfw.org/register.**

ST. MICHAEL FOUNDATION

Your St. Michael Lutheran Church Foundation Board after thoughtful and prayerful consideration has transferred St. Michael's Foundation assets to The Lutheran Foundation of Fort Wayne. In 2006 our original funds of \$31,225 was deposited into the Lutheran Community Foundation in Minneapolis, MN. At that time the local, Lutheran Foundation, was in their early days and did not manage congregation endowments. Our Minneapolis group transitioned to the InFaith Foundation and recently to Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing. We thank them for their wise investments for St. Michael these past 17 years. The St. Michael Foundation Board was interested in the lower fees that our local foundation offers along with its local and strong faith leadership component. All current account names and holdings remain the same. A unanimous vote transferred funds from Minneapolis to Fort Wayne on September 20, 2023. After granting over \$150,000 to church ministry projects over \$430,000 was moved into The Lutheran Foundation. All other proposal requests and procedures remain as in the past.

FOUNDATION AWARD PROPOSAL REQUESTS ARE OPEN!

Submit an application for a SMLC Foundation Award! Be creative in your thinking! Perhaps you seek funding for specific Youth Group activities, a Connect Group ministry, or a Men's Ministry project. Applications are due 5:00p on April 6. Submit an explanation letter to the St. Michael Foundation in care of Ron Menze, Foundation Advisor (menzeron@gmail.com) (341-5289) or into the Foundation mail slot at church.

FUTURE LUTHERAN CHURCH WORKER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

St. Michael is blessed to have several young people who are currently attending, or will be attending, one of our Lutheran universities or seminaries in preparation for professional church work (i.e., pastor, teacher, DCE, etc.). If you are one of those, you are invited to submit an application for a grant to the St. Michael Foundation. The deadline is April 6 (5:00p). Submit a letter of request to the St. Michael Foundation in care of Ron Menze, Foundation Advisor (menzeron@gmail.com) (341-5289) or into the Foundation mail slot at church.

thank you

Dear St. Michael Foundation,

Thank you for your generous support of my First Year here at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne! In the third week of the first quarter all of my classmates were placed at local Lutheran Churches around Fort Wayne and the surrounding area for Field Work. My placement is Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne with Pastor Michael Trombly. The church is kind and faithful as they are led by a pastor who is also kind, encouraging and faithful to them.

Your support this year is incredibly helpful in not only purchasing textbooks, but also the unexpected purchase of an Alb for field work. Making the purchase of the Alb was made much easier as the St. Michael Foundation Grant. We were able to not only purchase the Alb easily, but one that of good quality and that will last through Seminary.

Once again, thank you for your support of my Seminary education. As St. Paul starts many of his Letters, "I thank my God every time I think of you" for your generosity financially, but also for the prayers of endurance, peace and guidance through Seminary.

Please, keep Natalie and I in your prayers as we continue this journey through Seminary and the journey as Newlyweds. We look forward to visiting you all this summer, and Lord willing preach for you this summer! Sincerely,

Charlie and Natalie McLain



GOD'S BLESSINGS ON OUR APRIL ANNIVERSARIES!

| God's blessings to... | Day | Years | God's blessings to... | Day | Years |
|--------------------------------|-----|-------|---------------------------|-----|-------|
| John and Laura Elmer | 2 | 30 | Curt and Stephanie Graber | 15 | 35 |
| Ricky and Heidi Marks | 2 | 42 | Jim and Olga Mendenhall | 18 | 15 |
| Matthew and Melyssa Lennington | 3 | 15 | Randy and Lois Squire | 18 | 9 |
| Chon and Sharon Michael | 4 | 26 | Jon and Tina Conrad | 20 | 11 |
| Keith and Jana Peters | 5 | 16 | Timothy and Lisa Klein | 20 | 17 |
| David and Trisha Englert | 11 | 43 | Paul and Mae Rogers | 20 | 56 |
| Charles and Lou Ann Presti | 11 | 37 | Mark and Cindy Kaszowski | 21 | 45 |
| Dan and Brenda Mauricio | 13 | 28 | Kent and Amy Litchin | 23 | 36 |
| | | | Dave and Sandy Hopper | 24 | 21 |

APRIL BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS



We will celebrate baptism birthdays on April 20/21. Please pray for Nate Heilman; Hunter, Lennon and Sullivan Smith; Conor Burgess; Oakley Sorlie; Autumn Peters; and Addison Childs.

APRIL MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Marge Ball, 4/5, 83; Diane Jackson, 4/6, 81; Sue Starkey-Vusich, 4/6, 86; Shirley Fahlsing, 4/8, 89; Virgil Brockmann, 4/9, 87; Dave Jackson, 4/11, 84; Melvin Kiessling, 4/12, 80; Charlotte Kiessling, 4/12, 80; and Jim Reiter, 4/19, 81.

TOWN HALL QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

The Governance Task Force has hosted its final Town Hall meeting and we are thankful to hundreds of members who took time to attend, ask questions, and thoughtfully pray for our congregation as we work towards a change to our congregational bylaws and governance model. We are truly grateful. The Task Force continues to work and members can expect a final draft of the bylaws in early April. This will likely be the document voted on at the upcoming congregational meeting on April 28. However, on **April 14** at the beginning of the Adult Sunday School Class in the gym, taskforce leaders will be on hand to answer your final questions. There is no presentation, just an opportunity to be heard one more time so that anyone's questions are addressed before the vote two weeks later. We will take as much time as needed for this open forum, but we will also be prepared to continue the regular Bible study class once questioning is complete. We are truly blessed with an active and vibrant congregation at St. Michael, and this has been reinforced throughout the entire governance task force process. Thank you for being engaged!

GOOD TO KNOW

LUTHERAN SENIOR CARE MINISTRY MARKS 100 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

Lutheran Senior Care Ministry (LSCM) stands as a steadfast symbol of compassion and commitment to the spiritual well-being of seniors. As it reaches the remarkable milestone of a century in service, this organization reflects on its rich history, profound impact, and unwavering dedication to enhancing the lives of elderly individuals. Click [here](#) to read more. **The Lutheran Senior Care Ministry Centennial Gala is Thursday, April 18 from 5:30p-8:30p at The Orchid.**