

# AUGUST

ST. MICHAEL NEWSLETTER



[STMFV.ORG](http://STMFV.ORG) / 432-2033

## CONNECT WITH PASTOR GOFF

In a sermon a few months ago, I mentioned the book *The Circle Maker* by Mark Batterson. As a companion to that book, Batterson also wrote *Draw the Circle: 40 Day Prayer Challenge*." Over the years, Laura and I have read and reread the *40-Day Prayer Challenge* especially as we are seeking God's direction for something in life.

On day 16 of the *40-Day Prayer Challenge*, Batterson shares the following story:

A few years ago at a routine staff meeting, I prayed the prayer, "Lord, surprise me." One of the most dramatic surprises happened a few weeks after praying that prayer for the first time. Our family was vacationing at a friend's cabin.

On the first day we heard a knock on the door. It was a neighbor named Harry, who asked if he could see the cabin. He looked harmless enough, so I invited him in. Within five minutes, Harry had offered to let us use his pontoon boat for the week. When we went to his cabin to get the keys, I noticed a book on his coffee table written by a former senator who attended our church. (Batterson's church is in Washington D.C.) I had a hunch when I saw the book that he might know the senator's good friend and my mentor, Dick Forth. Sure enough, Harry knew Dick. So I told Harry I would send him a copy of a book I had dedicated to Dick titled *Wild Goose Chase*. The week after our vacation ended, I sent Harry a copy, and he liked it enough to recommend it to his friend Tom.

Nearly a year after meeting Harry, I got a call from Tom, a deacon at another church. He introduced himself and explained that his church, once thriving, had now dwindled down to a few members. They wanted to give their property, valued at \$2 million, to our church.

When I think about the degree of probability of what happened, it's mind-boggling. I have no idea what prompted Harry to knock on our door that day. If he hadn't knocked, I would not have gone over to his cabin, seen a book on his coffee table, mentioned Dick Foth, or sent him a copy of *Wild Goose Chase*. And, of course, I didn't know Tom from Adam! But God knows every Tom, Dick, and Harry! And He can orchestrate divine appointments with anyone, anytime, anywhere.

Lord, surprise me!

Quite a surprise, don't you think? And while the biggest surprise may have been the \$2 million gift to Batterson's church, it wouldn't have happened if God hadn't put people together in unexpected ways.

I thought about Batterson's story here the other day when Stephanie Maxson, our Minister of Music, shared with me a text message she received that morning. A few months earlier, she was at Meijer and noticed a guy playing a banjo outside the store. (If you know Stephanie she never misses an opportunity to talk to someone about music.) She talked to the guy and told him about the bluegrass group at St. Michael, Jubilant Fields, and invited him to come play with them. They exchanged phone numbers and that was it. ***Continued on page 3***

# Lord, surprise me...

## PASTOR GOFF *continued*

Well, just the other morning she received this text message from him:

Hello, this is the kid who was playing banjo outside Meijer earlier this summer. I was given a number and invited to a bluegrass jam at St. Michael's, and I was wondering if that was still happening. I usually work Thursday evenings, but I have tomorrow off and would love to come. Also, is this the number of the lady who spoke to me at Meijer, or a number for St. Michael's?

Stephanie said she had entered his phone number in her phone as "Banjo Guy at Meijer." (She didn't even know his name.) Of course, she responded that he was welcome to show up and practice with Jubilant Fields. And you know what, he did.

To use Mark Batterson's words, what's the probability that an unexpected conversation outside Meijer one day would result in a deeper connection? Stephanie was living out St. Michael's mission statement, "Connecting people to Jesus and others."

From the above stories, I want to encourage you to do two things.

### #1 .....

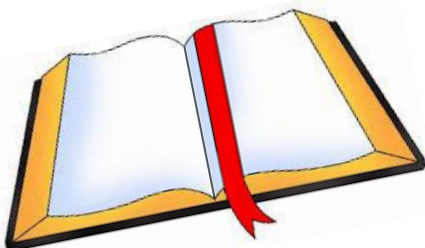
For the month of August, **pray** the prayer along with me, "Lord, surprise me." Maybe your prayer is directed towards something in your personal or family life. Maybe it's a prayer that can be directed toward something at our church. Maybe it's a prayer that can be directed toward someone else in your life. Let's just see what the Lord can reveal as we pray, "Lord, surprise me."

### #2 .....

Secondly, I want to encourage you to **have a conversation** with someone you don't know that just might be a point of connection – for you and that person and/or for that person and Jesus. This may be a way for you to live out our church's mission of "Connecting people to Jesus and others."

(And, if you have a great story to share, please share it!)

Pastor Goff



It's never too late to join our  
New Testament Reading Challenge!  
Join us for the study of Corinthians!

# BLESSING HIS WORLD

## REDEMPTION HOUSE UPDATE

We are quickly approaching the end of the renovations at our Fairfield (our original home) house and our unveiling of the upgrades and renovations coincides with our Annual Alumni reunion. We would love to give you some insight on what's been going on in Redemption House's first home, and how you can be involved in it!

Some of the projects our contractors have been hard at work completing include....

- New roof – replacing the original roof
- Brand new kitchen
- Refinished floors
- New sprinkler system
- New heating and cooling system

Alongside these major renovations, there are some finishing touches that need to be completed before welcoming our residents and you for our big Alumni Reunion and Open House. That is where you, your family, and your friends can help!

### Volunteering opportunities include:

- Painting
- Cleaning
- Unpacking
- Moving
- Assembling furniture
- Yardwork

If you click the link, it will direct you to our volunteer page where you will be asked to answer a few questions. Please contact me if you have any questions or need to reschedule. <https://tinyurl.com/redemptionhouse>

### Pray!

We ask that whether or not you are volunteering, you pray for Redemption House, this transition, and the women who are seeking to change their lives.

### Volunteer!

Click the link above to let us know when you can volunteer and please contact us if you have any special skills or interests!

### Contribute!

If you would like to donate or contribute monetarily to the project, please go to our website, <https://redemptionhousefw.org/give-online/> or contact us.

The "Renovation Open House" for the Fairfield location (2720 Fairfield) is Saturday, August 5 from 11:00a-2:00p! Come and rejoice with us! There will be live music, food, family fun, shirts, prizes, and more! Please join us!



**Come to our**  
**ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION**  
**+ OPEN HOUSE!**

**LIVE MUSIC AND FAMILY FUN!** **FREE EVENT WITH SHIRTS, FOOD, AND PRIZES!**

**YOUR CHANCE TO EXPLORE THE RENOVATIONS AT REDEMPTION HOUSE'S ORIGINAL HOME**

**2720 Fairfield Avenue  
Fort Wayne, IN 46807**

**AUGUST 5, 2023  
11AM- 2PM**

**PARKING AT FAIRFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB**

**FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:  
(260)449-9091**

**Redemption HOUSE  
REDEMPTIONHOUSEFW.ORG**

# BLESSING HIS WORLD

## AUGUST OPPORTUNITY TO BE A BLESSING/LOBBY COLLECTION

St. Michael is collecting pencils, wide-ruled spiral notebooks and 24-count crayon boxes for school families, NINE (Northeast Indiana Engagement) and children in Honduras ([www.sowers4pastors.com](http://www.sowers4pastors.com)). Please place your donation under the lobby shelf. Thank you for your generous hearts! St. Michael is a missional congregation!

## 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](http://lssin.org) with questions.

## SHEPHERD OF THE CITY BAR-B-QUE—August 5, 11:00a-4:00p

All are welcome to participate in this Christian fellowship opportunity!

## THANK YOU FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

St. Michael donated 24 units of blood and hosted 3 new donors. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 4. Your donation requires very little time, and its value is priceless in life-saving ways!

## THANK YOU FOR THE CANNED GOODS

St. Michael donated over 800 cans of chicken and green beans to combat hunger in Fort Wayne through organizations like NINE and the New Life Food Pantry. Thank you for your generous hearts!

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLINIC

Look for a recap of this awesome event in the September newsletter! Know that St. Michael connected with many, many families who came for the Back to School Clinic! And special thanks to the numerous volunteers who gave their time and talents to this valuable ministry event!

**Together we are Blessing His World as we continue to be good stewards of what God has given us and give generously to meet the needs of our community. Check your parish notes for ways to be Christ's hands and feet in August!**

# NEWS FROM STEPHANIE

Newly arranged classrooms, floors waxed, bulletin boards hung, schedules created, and excitement building as St. Michael and ESM prepares for the start of a new school year and fall ministry! As much as I love summer (and dread the length of winter), I do love the change of seasons. Change can be tough as we say goodbye to what we have come to love (WARM temperatures) but also look ahead to new experiences and challenges that grow and strengthen us.

St. Michael music ministry has several new opportunities this fall; a team of 10 music leaders are participating in the Experience Worship Conference and will help develop music goals for the upcoming year; our Academy is starting year 8 and planning to offer a Fine Arts Camp next summer; St. Michael is hosting the first ever Multi-Arts Retreat (see below) to encourage and inspire artists in our community and church. Wow. God is providing us resources and opportunities. How exciting to look for ways to use His gifts for His glory! Maybe now is the time to jump into something new and watch God work!

*So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31*

## INTERN UPDATE

The summer has flown by and our awesome intern Owen is almost done with his internship. Owen has freely shared his musical gifts with us this summer and we recently got to hear one of his musical arrangements of the hymns *When in our Music Christ is Glorified* and *In Christ Alone*. Owen has also helped us move music equipment, participated in strategic planning meetings, and given input on music selections for the upcoming year. Owen has been a huge blessing and a wonderful beginning to the first of hopefully many music interns. We love you Owen! Thank you!

## ACADEMY UPDATE

The Fall Semester of St. Michael's Academy of the Arts will begin August 21. Register now at [academy.stmfw.org](http://academy.stmfw.org). We are also looking for another piano teacher. If you are interested please contact our Worship Director, Stephanie Maxson, at [stephanie@stmfw.org](mailto:stephanie@stmfw.org)

## 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>

## AUGUST SATURDAY BAND LINE-UP

**August 5** Life Song

**August 12** New Song

**August 19** King's Strings

**August 26** Life Song

# MUSIC NEWS *continued*

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE START OF CHOIR!!!

Our choirs are ready to start up again and would love to have you join us!!!! Check out the start dates below.

### VOCAL CHOIRS

**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!

### 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.

## AUGUST SINGING OPPORTUNITIES

We also have a few times left to sing this month. Ask for music from our music director, Stephanie, at [stephanie@stmfw.org](mailto:stephanie@stmfw.org).

**August 6 @ 10:00a Men's Choir**

*This Little Light of Mine*

**August 13 @ 8:00a Adult Choir**

*Lay Up Your Treasures in Heaven*

**August 13 @ 10:00a Women's Choir**

*Seek Ye First, On Eagles' Wings*

**August 27 @ 10:00a Men's Choir**

*Hold on to the Rock*

# BELONG

## PRAYING FOR OUR NATION—August 2/16

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

## PURLS— August 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. 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.

## LWML

St. Michael is hosting the LWML Fall Rally on Saturday, October 14. Save the date now and plan to attend!

## IMPROVE FINANCIAL HEALTH! BIBLE STUDY—Sunday, September 10

Did you know that there are 2,350 verses in the Bible that deal with money and possessions? With so much biblical focus on these topics, it's important for us as Christians to take note and examine how we are stewarding God's gifts according to his will. Join us during the Sunday school hour starting September 10th 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!

## PARABLES OF JESUS BIBLE STUDY—Monday nights at 7:00p

The Monday Night Bible study will begin classes on September 11 at 7:00 pm in the after school care room and will continue every week through November 20. This fall we will be taking a close look at the Parables of Jesus. The cost of the class will be \$5. Please contact Terry Butler if you wish to attend or if you have any questions. You can email Terry at [tgbslb67@yahoo.com](mailto:tgbslb67@yahoo.com) or call/text him at (260)515-6356.



**STAY TUNED FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF  
ST. MICHAEL FALL BIBLE STUDIES COMING SOON!**

## CALLING ALL PICKLEBALL PLAYERS

Have you ever played pickleball? This is your chance to try this up-and-coming sport. Whether you're a pro or novice, we'll have fun! A group from St. Michael will gather every Monday. If you are interested contact Debbie Gotsch at [debbiegotsch@gmail.com](mailto:debbiegotsch@gmail.com).



# BELONG

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

### August 10

We are touring the "Worship Anew" recording facility on the Concordia Theological Seminary Campus and enjoying a box lunch. Thank you to everyone who preregistered!

### 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 by September 7.

## 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 August 19. Contact Celine Newman if you are planning on joining or for further details.



## GAP MINISTRY—August 19/20

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

Join friends and family from St. Michael for 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! Enjoy two full days of adventure, great food, history and fellowship with friends and family! **Visit the Information Desk in the lobby for more information.**

COST: \$299.00 pp based on double occupancy

Deposit to confirm reservation: \$100 pp – Non-Refundable

Final Payment Due – September 1, 2023

Triple & Quad rates are available on upon request



## 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!

# YOUTH WITH DCE INTERN EMMA DEINES

This summer the Middle School and High School youth have enjoyed youth nights, gathered in Food and Fellowship and helped serve the Fort Wayne community! As we lean into the new school year, we're continuing to create and grow relationships. To do that, 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](mailto:emma@stmfw.org) or text/call (636)-542-2876. It has been a fantastic experience here at St. Michael! As I continue to grow as a leader, I look forward to all that is ahead.

## YOUTH NIGHTS!

We will begin our regularly scheduled Youth Nights on August 20. 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! So come join us to kick off this next year!

Youth Night Calendar		
Date	Middle School	High School
August 20	4:00p-6:00p (Parent Meeting at 5:45p)	6:00p-8:00p (Parent Meeting at 5:45p)
September 3	No Youth, Labor Day!	No Youth, Labor Day!
September 17	Indiana Junior High Rally (no middle school youth night)	6:00p-8:00p

## FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHT! - AUGUST 16 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 August 16! See you there!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Middle School Youth** (6th-8th) keep your calendars open for September 16/17 for the Indiana Junior High Rally at Camp Lutherhaven! This is a great opportunity to get together with other youth in Indiana to celebrate God's love for each and everyone one of us! Are you ready to "Start Your Adventure"?

**SIGN UP HERE!**



## REGISTRATION AND BACK-TO-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE FOR CONCORDIA



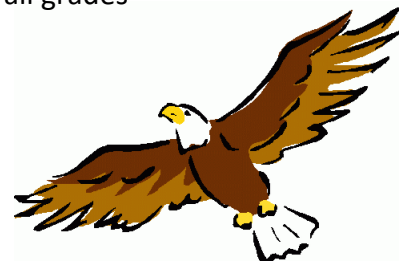
All students enrolled at Concordia Lutheran High School for the 2023-24 school year are required to complete paperwork for registration and attend the Back-to-School Open House any time at their convenience from 2:00p-6:00p on August 2/3. During this event, they will get your student’s books, course schedule, and locker, and they will have their school photo taken. You will also have the opportunity to meet with our Business Office and Financial Aid as needed, and check out various clubs and activities through our different booths, including JROTC uniforms and caps and gowns for seniors. Admission is still open for the 2023-24 school year. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Dawn Schuller, Director of Admissions and Retention, at (260) 483-1102, ext. 289 or [dschuller@clhscadets.com](mailto:dschuller@clhscadets.com).

## EMMANUEL-ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

A Lutheran education at ESM establishes Christ firmly at the center of life and seeks to connect children and families to the grace freely offered by our loving Savior. Partnered with Emmanuel Lutheran Church and St. Michael Lutheran Church, we offer a distinctly Lutheran education, following Christ’s example of intentional inclusion, where forgiveness, encouragement, growth, and faith is central to each day. ESM’s highly qualified staff seek to provide measurable components of excellence in education. We are accredited by state and national programs and create an atmosphere where faith, service, and mission are lived out. With an average of 16 years’ experience by our professional faculty and an average student/teacher ratio of 20:1, students are prepared with the skills and knowledge that life requires.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

August 7	1:00p-7:00p	Registration for all grades at the Getz Road Campus
August 8	12:00p-4:00p	Registration for all grades at the Getz Road Campus
August 14	6:30p-7:30p	Back to school night for all grades
August 16	All Day	First day of school



### ESM SHEPHERD OF THE SCHOOL UPDATE


Praise be to God that Pastor Jonathan Meyer has accepted the Divine Call to serve as Shepherd of the School. We lift up Pastor Meyer, his wife Carolyn, and their three daughters (Charlotte, Josephine and Adeline) in prayer for their upcoming transition.

# ST. MICHAEL FINANCIAL UPDATE

June 2023

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual vs budget</b>
Offerings	\$768,671	\$829,450	\$(60,779)
Facility	\$7,985	\$6,250	\$1,735
Interest	\$8,616	\$3,500	\$5,116
Grants	\$2,849	\$15,132	\$(12,283)
Fellowship	\$1,018	\$-	\$1,018
ESM/CLHS Support	\$120	\$-	\$120
Misc.	\$763	\$1,500	\$(737)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$790,022</b>	<b>\$855,832</b>	<b>\$(65,810)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Missions	\$11,324	\$10,284	\$1,040
Education	\$328,375	\$328,375	\$-
Youth & Family	\$5,652	\$10,275	\$(4,623)
Administrative	\$20,308	\$17,875	\$2,433
Pastoral Support	\$3,527	\$4,972	\$(1,445)
Worship	\$9,598	\$8,810	\$788
Boards & Committees	\$5,004	\$7,725	\$(2,721)
Utilities, Maintenance & Supplies	\$101,781	\$90,495	\$11,286
Salaries	\$280,722	\$288,399	\$(7,677)
Taxes and Benefits	\$83,818	\$88,450	\$(4,632)
Nursery, Gym Setup, Worship	\$4,250	\$4,056	\$194
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$854,359</b>	<b>\$859,716</b>	<b>\$(5,357)</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$(64,337)</b>	<b>\$(3,884)</b>	<b>\$(60,453)</b>

**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.

<b>app</b>	<b>browser</b>
 <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](mailto: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](mailto:amysboilers8@icloud.com). Practices begin on Thursday, September 7 at 6:15p-8:00p.

## LWML CONVENTION RECAP

On June 21-25, we had the opportunity to represent St. Michael at the International LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attended by about 3,500 women from all over the world. We traveled by chartered bus, and our days were filled with service events, speakers, fellowship, Bible studies, worship, lots of great singing, entertainment, and information from the many Lutheran Women in Mission grant recipients of our mite collections. Those who were delegates had business sessions and voted on new officers and future mite grants. The new goal for the 2023-2025 mission grants is \$2,350,000.

For the past 80 years since Lutheran Women in Mission was begun, a total of \$28.9 million has been granted to missions in 83 different countries. There was also a golf outing and a “mite” walk, which raised \$135,000. The separate convention offerings for each day totaled over \$100,000. Even though these figures are amazing and wonderful, it is not just about the money.

**Over 1,200 women participated in servant events and helped with:**

- **79 units of blood given**
- **566 backpack school kits assembled**
- **162 fleece blankets made, 1,167 braille books and calendars assembled**
- **50,000+ meals packed for Orphan Grain Train**
- **4,751 “witness” bracelets for children made**
- **1,154 cards of encouragement or hope written for cancer patients, refugees, and mission workers**

Last year, Fort Wayne hosted the Indiana District Convention at Concordia High School. Next year, it will be held June 21-23 at the Hendricks County Fair Grounds in Danville, IN. We hope you can plan on attending that event, whose theme is “Rooted in Christ.”

In His service,

*Linda Chapman and Mary Nichols*

## FAMILY MINISTRY FROM JEN



Hello everyone, I am Jen Clendenen, a passionate and dedicated member of our St. Michael Lutheran Church community, and I am thrilled to be your new Family Ministry Coordinator. Over the years, my commitment to serving others and my faith have led me to work and volunteer in various capacities within the church. I believe in the power of community and am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this new role.

In addition to working as the Family Ministry Coordinator, I am also employed by Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School. I see this new role as an exciting chance to further my reach and impact within the community that I love so much. My husband Jacob and I are blessed to have four beautiful children ranging in age from high school to preschool. Our family is very active

and can often be spotted at Concordia Lutheran High School and ESM events. We love being involved in our school communities.

As the Family Ministry Coordinator, my goal is to ensure that all members of our church feel valued, supported, and connected to our community. I am passionate about developing new and innovative programs and opportunities that bring us closer together as a family of faith. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or simply someone who cares about our church family, I encourage you to get involved.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions. I am always here to listen and to help serve our amazing community of faith. Thank you for choosing me as your new Family Ministry Coordinator. I look forward to working with you all in the months and years ahead.

## Thank you!

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, and words of encouragement after the recent passing of my sister. God bless my wonderful and loving church family.

*Lyn Wittwer*

Thank you to Tammy Bruns and Craig and Rhonda Patterson for hosting our summer Adult Bible Studies! If you took part in the study of Philippians or the BEING Challenge, thank you for your faithfulness and commitment to grow in your faith. It is always St. Michael's hope and prayer that our church family is increasing in knowledge and love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We look forward to seeing everyone this fall with...

## RALLY DAY 2023! Sunday, September 10th

# 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**

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**Mark Muntzinger**

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**Michael Kuhn**

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**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 AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES!

God's blessings to...	Day	Years	God's blessings to...	Day	Years
Mark and Erin Bains	8/1	14 years	James and Beth Brackmann	8/14	42 years
Jerry and Susie Egly	8/1	42 years	Shawn and Kim Patterson	8/14	30 years
Jim and Jan Luepke	8/1	47 years	Patrick and Lisa Wetzel	8/14	41 years
Jacob and Jayne Schroeder	8/1	8 years	David and Judy Bauer	8/15	53 years
Michael and Lindsey Kuhn	8/2	9 years	Ken and Susan Thieme	8/15	42 years
Mike and Julie Rohrback	8/2	54 years	Duane and Carol Miller	8/16	37 years
Scott and Heather Twomey	8/2	26 years	Michael and Dianne Snider	8/16	26 years
Larry and Linda Eckerley	8/3	55 years	Andrew and Elissabeth White	8/16	15 years
Bernie and Denise Rupe	8/3	10 years	Jim and Christy Mowrey	8/17	37 years
Justin and Jenn Durnell	8/4	16 years	Philip and Cheryl Wiehe	8/17	55 years
Scott and Jaime McNamara	8/4	16 years	John and Sue Baker	8/18	39 years
John and Linda Saurer	8/4	50 years	Ken and Edith Springer	8/18	55 years
Rich and Mary Busch	8/5	12 years	Shawn and Anna Davis	8/19	17 years
Kevin and Kari Peeper	8/5	6 years	Mike and Jean Bristol	8/20	57 years
Quinn and Angie Cunningham	8/8	15 years	Paul and Lynette Selking	8/20	29 years
Steve and Mary Easterday	8/8	36 years	Greg and Renee Starke	8/20	35 years
Dan and Arlyn Farber	8/8	18 years	Colin and Kelly Daseler	8/21	13 years
Bruce and Marty Schroeder	8/9	32 years	Keith and Wendi Powers	8/21	30 years
Lynn and Joann Auman	8/11	50 years	Jon and Jodi Hartman	8/22	25 years
Tyler and Kelsey Bly	8/11	5 years	Wayne and Jean Panning	8/27	57 years
Chuck and Linda Chapman	8/11	49 years	Paul and Heidi Dancy	8/28	47 years
Tim and Judy Thoms	8/11	39 years	Ron and Donna Hern	8/29	48 years
Joe and Pam Franklin	8/12	34 years	Craig and Rhonda Patterson	8/29	31 years
Brad and Beth Gough	8/12	45 years	John and Belva Patterson	8/29	59 years
Jim and Janet Maxson	8/12	56 years	Jonathan and Dawn Derr	8/31	21 years
Mary and Jerry Nichols	8/13	63 years	Brian and Dawn Seiy	8/31	33 years

## AUGUST BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS



We will celebrate baptism birthdays on August 19/20. Please celebrate Sawyer Castleman; Denver Engle; Hayden Hall; Drew Heilman; Elsie Lutz; Kylie Peeper; Nash Roehm; Macy Scherer; Renner Sliger; Maddox Stiffler; Jason Sult; and Tess Wolfe.

## 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!

**BELONG BECOME BLESS**