

DECEMBER

newsletter

Warmest Advent and
Christmas greetings
from the pastors
and leadership team
of St. Michael
Lutheran Church!



CONNECT WITH PASTOR GOFF

Thank you to the 100 people who attended the congregation meeting last month (November 19). The food and fellowship were great, and there was a spirit of unity among those attending as we reviewed various aspects of our ministry together. The following is a summary of what I shared as a part of the Senior Pastor's report.

- 1. Statistical Report.** A printed report was distributed with information on membership, attendance, giving, etc. There were two things I highlighted. One is that our baptized and communicate membership shows a decrease because there has been an intentional effort to contact people who we have not seen in several years. Many of those contacts have gone unanswered and there are some people who we no longer have contact information on. Nevertheless, so far in 2023, we have received 72 new members. Secondly, our average worship attendance has increased over the past few years. For 2023 our average weekend attendance is 501, not including those worshipping online.
- 2. Organizational Priorities.** While I was interviewed for the senior pastor position, there were four areas of priority I heard repeated from the Call Committee, Church Council, Elders, and Staff needing attention.
 - a. Ministry Strategy.** We are working on further clarification, but our overall ministry strategy is designed around our mission statement: *"Connecting people to Jesus and others."* And to carry that out, our discipleship model is: *Becoming More Like Jesus, Belonging to His Church, and Blessing His World.*
 - b. Church Governance.** A few months ago, the Church Council authorized our work with an outside consultant, Jim Galvin of Galvin and Associates, to guide us through a review of our church governance model and By-Laws. There will be more information about this after the first of the year. Our goal is to complete this process the first half of 2024.
 - c. Facility Review.** While there was already work started on this prior to the senior pastor vacancy, we will soon continue to assess facility needs and/or improvements on our church and school buildings. Our principal, Dr. Ben Stellwagen, and Assistant Principals at St. Michael's campus, Keri Latin and Jennifer Ackmann, will be included in this process as well. Our goal is to begin this process the first half of 2024.
 - d. Ministry Staff.** I am thankful for a dedicated, gifted, and servant hearted ministry staff at St. Michael. As we further clarify our ministry strategy, we will also assess our overall staffing needs. Our goal is to complete that process by the end of 2024.
- 3. Missional Pastor – Pastor Shawn's Ministry Realignment.** Pastor Shawn and I had some Q and A time at the meeting to further unpack his ministry realignment beginning in 2024. The word "realignment" means that with two full-time pastors we are now able to realign his ministry focus back to what it was intended to be when St. Michael called Pastor Shawn as our missional pastor. The focus of his ministry will be working with and among young adults – those connected with St. Michael, as well as young adults in the community who may not have any church connection. Additionally, Pastor Shawn will continue to oversee our Acts 1:8 mission and ministry partnerships.
- 4. St. Michael Website.** Work is underway to update/revamp our church website. Our goal is to have this completed in Spring 2024.
- 5. St. Michael 70th Jubilee Anniversary.** The year 2024 marks the 70th anniversary of St. Michael Lutheran Church. While the word "jubilee" used in the Old Testament was a reference to something that happened every 50 years, it is not uncommon to have a "jubilee" celebration at other numerical intervals as well. You will see more throughout 2024 highlighting our 70th anniversary.
- 6. Sermon Series for 2024.** The theme we will highlight for our 70th anniversary next year is "Jubilee: Set Free to Tell the Story." The preaching focus throughout 2024 (with a few exceptions), will focus on a number of Old Testament characters who were a part of God's salvation story down through the ages that has become our salvation story. Similarly, over the last 70 years there have been countless people connected to St. Michael who have been a part of "telling the salvation story" here. We are all a part of, and continue to share in, that legacy.

CONNECT WITH PASTOR GOFF

7. **Construction Project Across the Street.** In case you don't know the particulars of the construction project across the street, there is a 322-unit apartment complex being built. The first buildings are slated to be completed by late Spring of 2024 and the entire project is to be complete by Fall of 2025. I shared the concern that at this time there are no plans for a traffic light or other traffic control at our entrance, but we are petitioning the appropriate agency to reconsider that. However, I do want to highlight that this building project presents an opportunity for us to be the presence of Jesus to people who will make their home across the street. We will be exploring, and praying about, how to live out our mission of "Connecting people to Jesus and others" with our new neighbors.

Those are the highlights from my report to the congregation at last month's meeting. If you have any questions or need clarification about anything here, please contact me.

Laura and I extend our Christmas blessings to you and we look forward to the worship and fellowship times we will have together this Advent and Christmas season.

Pastor Goff

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP * Also available via livestream

Wednesday, December 6 7:00p*

This *Service of Light* will include scripture, time to meditate and special music as we continue to prepare our hearts and minds for our Savior's birth.

Wednesday, December 13 7:00p

This year, ALL our students will lead ONE service for BOTH St. Michael and Emmanuel congregations. You are invited to this historic service as we join together to worship Jesus; God made flesh to be our Savior! Our kids will lead us with scripture, songs, and the candlelit ending of *Silent Night*, *We Light a Thousand Candles*, and *May My Light Shine*. Join us at the University of St. Francis Performing Arts Center at 431 W. Berry Street.

Saturday, December 16 5:00p*

Our children pre-K through 5th grade will share the Christmas story through scripture, songs, and drama. Thanks to our Family Ministry Coordinator, Jen Clendenen, for directing the kids this year.

Wednesday, December 20 and Saturday December 23/No Services

Sunday, December 24 / Christmas Eve Services

Worship with lessons and carols	10:00a
Family Candlelight Worship with carols and kid's activity (NO puppets)	5:00p
Candlelight Worship with choir, bells and orchestra	7:00p*
Candlelight Worship with choir, bells, orchestra and Holy Communion	11:00p

Monday, December 25 / Christmas Day

Festival Worship with Holy Communion 10:00a*

Saturday, December 30 5:00p

Sunday, December 31 / New Year's Eve

Worship with Holy Communion 10:00a*



CONNECT WITH PASTOR SHAWN

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



This year we will once again bless families in our community and The Redemption House through the Christmas Giving Tree. This year as you look at the Christmas Giving Trees you will see tags for:

- \$25 gift cards to stores (Meijer, Target)
- family daily needs (toilet paper, paper products, laundry soap)
- twin sheet sets
- twin mattresses

Our goal is to support 14 families and help the Redemption House with at least 15 new mattresses. We will also hang tags for:

- two \$25 gift cards to Target, Meijer, and Kohls (stores with clothes and toys) per family member

All items need to be returned by Tuesday, December 12. If you have questions, contact Robin Kaiser at rrkaiser@hotmail.com or Pastor Shawn at pastordavis@stmfw.org.

PROJECT 216 SAYS THANK YOU!

It was such a joy to serve with you as a part of your Go and Serve Saturday! Thank you for giving your time, treasures and talents to make a difference to those in need, suffering displacement by war. Knowing that others are there to bring them the essential need of food will bring them hope! Thank you for being the hands, feet and heart of Jesus!



SHEPHERD'S HAND SAYS THANK YOU, ST. MICHAEL!



The generosity of our St. Michael members provided resources for us to meet and surpass our goal of preparing blessing bags for 25 families in our community this Thanksgiving. Your donations of \$1500 allowed us to distribute blessing bags at the Thanksgiving meal and again at our health fair in February. Thank you so much for partnering with Shepherd's Hand as we seek to fulfill our 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."

REDEMPTION HOUSE UPDATE—Graduation is December 3!

We will provide a meal at Wayne Street on December 17 and Fairfield Avenue on December 17. Contact Candi Luchnenko to provide a dish at 422-2061. You are welcome to St. Michael on Sunday, December 3 at 4:00p, as we host the graduation for three ladies from the Redemption House. **Come and be a part of this celebration!**



As Anna and I look at the adventure to come, realigning my call to work with young adults at St. Michael and throughout the Fort Wayne area, we want to say: Thank You. During the bi-annual voters meeting, we felt encouraged and supported for the ministry work ahead. Anna and I wish you a very Merry Advent and Christmas season!

Pastor Shawn

NEWS FROM STEPHANIE

Behold our God

Advent means “coming”. Historically, Advent was viewed as a time of preparation through *repentance*; a time to celebrate Christ’s first coming, and a time to look forward to the day when He will come back again. I must admit, repentance seems like a word more associated with Lent than with Christmas. Christmas is about the gift of baby Jesus, and lights, and angels singing, right? **Christmas is really all about Lent....and Easter.** Jesus was born for the sole purpose of dying for my sins and your sins. Jesus was also born to rise again triumphant from the grave, defeating death and giving us eternal victory! Jesus was born a humble birth, but he was still GOD; all powerful, all knowing, all present. Advent is a time to repent; to realize without a Savior we are incapable of a restored relationship with God. Christmas is a time to humbly and reverently WORSHIP God. Born a baby, but ALWAYS our King; our Savior, our LORD!

*O Come let us adore Him
Who has felt the nails upon His hand
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!*



*Behold our God, seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King, nothing can compare,
Come let us adore Him.*

Music Rehearsals for December

Monday, December 4 **Wednesday, December 6** **Thursday, December 7**
6:00p Harmony Ringers 6:30p Men’s Choir 6:30p Orchestra 7:00p Resound 8:00p Adult Choir

Monday, December 11 **Thursday, December 14**
6:00p Harmony Ringers 7:00p Women’s Choir 7:00p Resound 7:00p Adult Choir

Monday, December 18 **Wednesday, December 20**
6:00p Harmony Ringers 6:30p Men’s Choir 7:00p Resound 7:00p Adult Choir

Saturday, December 24
6:00p Choir, orchestra, bells

ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

We are excited to host **two recitals for our 45 Academy students** on Sunday, December 10 at 3:00p and 5:00p. Thank you to our director, Liz Edwards, for all of her work in putting these recitals together!

Time to register for Second Semester classes in St. Michael Academy of the Arts!

- Academy private lessons and group classes begin Monday, January 8.
- Kindermusik classes resume Tuesday, January 9.
- Register for new classes! Sign up for music lessons by visiting our website academy.stmfw.org

New FINE ARTS CAMP

What: Fine Arts Camp is a Christ-centered, weeklong, all day summer arts program.

Who: Youth who have finished Kindergarten through Grade 8. Students will be divided into Primary, Intermediate, and Junior High classes.

How: Students participate in daily classes based off the theme, and elective classes in music, visual arts, dance, sewing, drama, and more! Students are instructed by trained artists and teachers.

When: June 24-28, 2024. 9a-3:30p. Before and after care provided.

Where: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2131 Getz Rd, Ft. Wayne, IN

PRAISE TEAM SCHEDULE

December 2 New Song **December 9** Life Song **December 16** Sunday School Christmas Service
December 23 No Service **December 30** Keyboard with hymns

YOUTH WITH DCE INTERN EMMA DEINES

CHECK-IN WITH DCE INTERN EMMA!

Our lives are busy, running around from one activity to the next but here we can take a moment to stop and think about the God who created us. Over the last few months and continuing on throughout the year, Middle and High School Youth continue to learn more about their IDENTITY! God has a plan for us and has given us all gifts and talents to share His love with others. This month we continue to talk about “whose we are” and discuss how we can live that out in our daily lives.

FIRST ANNUAL YOUTHS-GIVING

Middle School and High School students were able to compete against one another in the first ever Family Feud. It was a great time of fellowship and we are so thankful for all our amazing youth at St. Michael!



“Elf Movie Night” High School and Middle School: Friday, December 8/6:00p-8:30p

Put on your Christmas PJs and join the fun! We will learn the Code of the Elves, an Elf's main food groups, and watch Buddy the Elf travel to a magical new world! Join us for pizza, popcorn, and other "Elf" inspired snacks.

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

Press control and click to follow link!

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!

December 3
December 17 - Christmas Party!

January 7 - Happy New Year!
January 21

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SERVANT EVENT

What are you doing this summer? The St. Michael High School youth will head to [Camp Linn Haven in North Carolina!](#) More details will be coming in December. If you are interested in being a part of this amazing trip please text or email DCE Intern Emma at (636)-542-2876 or emma@stmfw.org. If you are interested in being an Adult Leader, please contact DCE Intern Emma.

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHT! - December 20 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 November 15! See you there!

“CONNECT” FOR 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION

Join DCE Intern Emma at Electric Works on Tuesdays from 3:00p-5:30p. This is a time to get to know each other, play some fun games, and enjoy some snacks.

FAMILY MINISTRY with Jen Clendenen

We kicked off the Advent season with a lot of fun and fellowship during an ornament making session and hanging of the greens. It was such a joy to participate in the service and use the ornaments we made to decorate our sanctuary in preparation for Christmas. Thank you to all who attended!

As we enter the Advent season, we want to encourage you to make Jesus the true reason for the season in your home. To help with this, we have purchased an Advent Wreath Activity for your family. Please remember to pick it up from the Information desk in the Narthex/lobby as our gift to you. Each Sunday, we will email you a devotion designed to encourage and uplift you and your family during the Advent season. There are daily Bible readings to do as you place the sticker of the day on the wreath. You can do this activity at any time, but we have found that leaving the wreath on our dining table helps us maintain our daily Bible readings and keeps Christ at the center of our family time. Please note that sticker #1 should be placed on the first Sunday of Advent (December 3, 2023), not on December 1. Our prayer is that as you read and discuss these simple devotions and Bible texts, the Holy Spirit will fill your hearts with genuine joy and peace.

2023 Schedule of Stickers

Date	Sticker #	Date	Sticker #	Date	Sticker #	Date	Sticker #
Dec 3	1 - Hope Candle	Dec 10	8 - Peace Candle	Dec 17	15 - Joy Candle	Dec 24	22 - Love Candle
Dec 4	2	Dec 11	9	Dec 18	16	Dec 25	29 - Christ Candle
Dec 5	3	Dec 12	10	Dec 19	17	Dec 26	23
Dec 6	4	Dec 13	11	Dec 20	18	Dec 27	24
Dec 7	5	Dec 14	12	Dec 21	19	Dec 28	25
Dec 8	6	Dec 15	13	Dec 22	20	Dec 29	26
Dec 9	7	Dec 16	14	Dec 23	21	Dec 30	27
						Dec 31	28



Mark your calendars and get ready for some upcoming activities at our worship services!

- Saturday, December 16 at 5:00p
 - Our Pre-K to 5th grade Sunday school students will take us on a journey to Bethlehem during the worship service.
- 10:45a Sunday services - Children's Church
 - Specifically designed for our little ones aged 2-5 years old. They have a blast singing, making crafts, and hearing a message just for them.
- Saturday, December 24 at 5:00p
 - Plans are in the works for a special activity for kids attending this Christmas Eve family service.



Loving Father,

In this busy Christmas season, we lift our hearts to you. Help us, as parents, to be excited teachers, pointing our children to the joy and love found in a relationship with Jesus.

Give us the wisdom to weave faith into the fabric of our daily lives. Let our actions speak louder than words as we model kindness, forgiveness, and mercy. Help us to be lighthearted, reminding our children that following Christ is not a chore but a delight.

Guide us in bringing our children to church and reading the Bible together. May these activities be moments filled with laughter, curiosity, and discovery, reinforcing that knowing you is an adventure we embark on as a family. Lord, remind us that prayer is a powerful tool. Help us to pray with our children, teaching them to talk to you and trust your answers. May our prayers be a source of comfort and faith-building for them.

In this beautiful season of lights and wonder, keep our focus on the ultimate gift, Jesus. Help us to share the joy of his birth and sacrifice with those around us. Use us, imperfect as we are, to be beacons of your love, hope, and peace.

Thank you for your constant presence and guidance. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

BELONG

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

Thursday December 14 at 12:00p

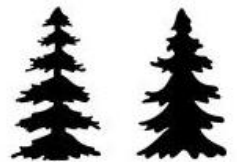
Begin your Christmas festivities with enjoying Christian fellowship, a catered Christmas buffet by Goeglein's, songs by our ESM children's choir and special music by Jubilant Fields. All that and a Christmas carol sing-a-long! RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by December 5. Cost: \$20.00. Reserve your spot by completing the form in the lobby and returning it to the office with your CHECK made out to St. Michael Lutheran Church (reference JOY Christmas on the memo line). Questions - call Penny Pequignot at 580-8730 or Janet Maxson at 438-7442.

GAP MINISTRY—December 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.

PRAYING FOR OUR NATION—December 6/20

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—December 5/19



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.

COFFEE BREAK WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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



BOOK CLUB—Thursday, December 14 at 10:00a

This month we are reading *The Christmas Spirit* by Debbie Macomber. If you'd like, bring a book to donate to Kate's Cart! Contact Camille Blake at 409-9196 with questions.

EPIPHANY BY CANDLELIGHT—January 7 at 2:00p

Just like Advent by Candlelight, except in Epiphany! Sign up at the Information Desk to attend, decorate a table with dishes and a centerpiece, or to bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert, or to attend! We will also enjoy a speaker who will share about astronomy and the Christmas Star.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN WORSHIP

Ushers and Greeters are needed to cover the extra Advent and Christmas services. Ushering & Greeting is a wonderful way to serve together as a family! Would you consider serving with your son/daughter or grandson/granddaughter? Please contact Dave Crow, lead usher at dcrowboilers65@icloud.com or Jen Chafee at jenchafee5@yahoo.com sign up! And thank you!

GOOD INFORMATION TO KNOW!

A committee at St Michael has been formed to review and revise the governance of the church. Simply put, church governance includes the policies, practices, and rules that affect the way we carry out the business of the church. While our church constitution will not change, our bylaws and governance structure are not the most efficient for a church our size. For example, if you were a member of St. Michael during the time before Pastor Goff was called, you may recall the challenges we faced due to the way our bylaws require the call process be carried out. The committee that is reviewing our church governance is seeking to create a system that allows flexibility to meet the needs of our church both now and in the future. **Please watch for the town hall meetings that will be held during the winter and early spring. Members will have the opportunity to learn more about proposed changes and ask questions.** May the Lord prosper these efforts so that St. Michael can continue to be a place where all are equipped and encouraged to belong, become, and bless!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

iLEAD—check out this amazing opportunity!

Last year, St. Michael collaborated with three other sister Lutheran congregations – Emmanuel, St. Peter’s, and Holy Cross to participate in a leadership development opportunity called **iLead – “Inspiring Leaders through Engagement and Development.”** This leadership development opportunity included four large group sessions, one at each of the four congregations, and four small group sessions with current and future leaders at our own individual congregations. In January, we will begin year two of iLead!

Everyone in the congregation, currently serving in a leadership role or not, are invited to any of the four large group sessions without guest presenters. Here is the lineup for coming this year and notice that St. Michael will host on January 20:

- January 6 (8:30-10:30) at Holy Cross: Rev. Mike Newman, President of the Texas District of the LCMS. President Newman’s topic is “The Job of the Church” where he will lay a foundation for all that we do in the church, focusing on the central role of forgiveness and the church’s call to deliver that gift.
- **January 20 (8:30-10:30) at St. Michael:** Dr. Josh Wymore. Josh is an executive coach, keynote speaker, and trainer with WYMOR sharing skill sets and practices to become a “humbler” leader. Josh and his family proudly call Fort Wayne their home.
- February 3 (8:30-10:30) at St. Peter’s: Gabe Kasper, Lead Pastor at University Lutheran Chapel in Ann Arbor, MI. Gabe’s focus will be to describe a resilient faith that not only doesn’t fade during this cultural moment but is strengthened and refined even as the world around us changes.
- February 17 (8:30-10:30) at Emmanuel: Angie Moellering, CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Indiana will lead a panel discussion on the importance of involving women as leaders in ministry.

ST. MICHAEL’S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2024 we celebrate 70 years of St. Michael! This year of Jubilee we will grow together through celebrations and spiritual practices while sharing the story of what God has done and is doing through His people. One way we will celebrate this coming year is through community events every 7 weeks (approximately). Save these dates on your calendar!

Jubilee Celebration Dates:

February 24 - Generosity Event

June 8/9 - Camp Lutherhaven Retreat

September 8 - Rally Day

December 14/15 TBD

April 28 - Congregational Meeting

July 20 or 21 - Cook Out Celebration

October 26/27 - Fall Family Fun Festival



EMMANUEL-ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

ESM VESPERS – SAVE THE DATE

Our School, Emmanuel-St. Michael, has the beautiful tradition of leading one midweek Advent service at both Emmanuel and St. Michael church's. This year, the tradition continues, but ALL of our students will lead ONE service for BOTH St. Michael and Emmanuel congregations.



In order to have enough room for everyone, the service will be held **Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00p** at the University of St. Francis Performing Arts Center at 431 W. Berry St.

You are invited to this historic service as we join together to worship Jesus; God made flesh to be our Savior! Our kids will lead us with scripture, songs, and the candlelit ending of *Silent Night*, *We Light a Thousand Candles*, and *May my Light Shine*.

PRESCHOOL AT ESM

Exciting things happen daily in ESM preschool classrooms where children are encouraged to question as they play, learn and actively explore God's world. If you would like to learn more, please contact Jennifer Ackmann at 459-1616 or at jackmann@esmeagles.com. Enrollment season will begin soon and we are expecting full preschool classes for the upcoming school year, so don't delay!

ESM Preschool Information and Enrollment Session - Save the Date!

Preschool Information and Enrollment Sessions are scheduled for February 1st at the Getz Campus and February 8th at the Union Campus. Both events will begin at 6:30pm and the same information will be shared at each meeting. Be sure to place one of these sessions on your calendar. These meetings provide opportunities to meet administrators and preschool teachers, learn about our preschool programs, ask questions and tour the classrooms. Come and experience why ESM preschool is a great place for children to learn and grow!

CLHS

PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE

If you are the parent of an eighth grade student or a high school student who is considering transferring to Concordia, please note that the priority application deadline for the 2024-25 school year is **December 15**. You can find more information online at becomeacadet.com!

CHRISTMAS AT THE EMBASSY

Celebrate the holiday season with Concordia Lutheran High School's annual Christmas at the Embassy at 4:00p, December 10 at the Historic Embassy Theatre. The 2023 event, "The Savior Reigns: Repeat the Sounding Joy!" will showcase the talents of CLHS music department students with choral, instrumental and orchestral music. Tickets are now on sale at the Embassy Box Office and Ticketmaster. Tickets are \$12 for students/seniors and \$18 for general admission. No reserved seats. Begin your Christmas celebrations with song and some holiday cheer!



CONCORDIA SCHOLARS DEADLINE

Open to Incoming 9th Graders: Exemplifying Concordia's best and brightest, the Concordia Scholar receives up to \$2,500 per year as an academic scholarship. This student is academically exemplary and demonstrates integrity and good character not only at school but also in the church, home, and community. A Concordia Scholar must maintain a 3.50 or higher GPA at Concordia, remain in good standing with tuition payments, and maintain a record of positive behavior. This scholarship renews automatically providing the student continues to fulfill its requirements. The **deadline for applications is December 15**.

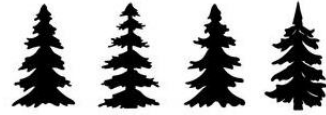
ST. MICHAEL FINANCIAL UPDATE

October 2023

<u>INCOME</u>	Actual	Budgeted	Actual vs budget
Offerings	1,319,768	1,382,417	\$(62,649)
Facility	\$10,445	\$10,417	\$28
Interest	\$16,977	\$5,833	\$11,144
Grants	\$21,057	\$25,219	\$(4,162)
Fellowship	\$1,348	\$0	\$1,348
ESM/CLHS Support	\$131	\$0	\$131
Misc.	\$1,706	\$1,500	\$206
Total Income	\$1,371,432	\$1,425,386	\$(53,954)
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Missions	\$18,324	\$16,802	\$1,522
Education	\$547,292	\$547,292	\$0
Youth & Family	\$12,123	\$16,217	\$(4,094)
Administrative	\$32,868	\$28,125	\$4,743
Pastoral Support	\$5,043	\$7,787	\$(2,744)
Worship	\$16,268	\$16,758	\$(490)
Boards & Committees	\$10,254	\$12,842	\$(2,588)
Utilities, Maintenance & Supplies	\$152,848	\$149,681	\$3,167
Salaries	\$480,386	\$487,606	\$(7,220)
Taxes and Benefits	\$140,051	\$147,663	\$(7,612)
Nursery, Gym Setup, Worship	\$5,625	\$6,344	\$(719)
Total Expenses	\$1,421,082	\$1,437,117	\$(16,035)
Net Income (Loss)	\$(49,650)	\$(11,731)	\$(37,919)


2024 Approved Budget

At the November Congregational Meeting, the 2024 balanced budget of \$1,772,402 was proposed to the voters and approved unanimously. A summary of the budget was emailed to members on November 15 and copies are available through the church office.



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.

THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF OF ST. MICHAEL!

You might be aware that many of the staff offices have been under renovation, receiving new flooring and paint. Recently, American Renovations inserted windows into the brick wall of the breezeway, bringing light and cheer into the Luther Hall offices of Rhonda Patterson and Emma Deines. Thank you, family of St. Michael, for caring for your staff and facilities! Stop in to see the improvements!



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

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GOD'S BLESSINGS ON OUR DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES!

God's blessings to...	Day	Years	God's blessings to...	Day	Years
Christopher and Gina Connelly	1	22	Tommy and Karen Smith	16	35
Kent and Susan Scheiwe	4	30	Mike and Glenda Birkenbeul	18	52
Steve and Carolyn Loggins	7	49	Troy and Camille Bartel	27	26
Michael and Jo Sienk	7	55	Chris and Alicia Levitt	27	20
Jeff and Jenny Fearnow	8	16	Bill and Marilyn Barlow	28	66
Jim and Mitzie Reiter	11	59	Mike and Mary Ratty	29	44
Chris and Brenda Williams	11	31	Matt and Hallie Urban	31	6

DECEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS



We will celebrate baptism birthdays on December 16/17

Please pray for Sophia Stir; Miles Campbell; Emmalynn Mauricio; Torin Henriksen; Gwen Burgess; Ellis Campbell; Elsie Davis; Fenris Henriksen; Genesis, London and Odyssey Salazar; Archer Smith; Brae Sprunger; Freddie Wren; Lillian Bly; Vivian Vachon; Selma Urban; Alli Meyer; Jack Durnell; Barrett Schroeder; and Isabelle Childs.

DECEMBER MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

God's blessings to: Monica Zoch, 12/2, 85; Joe Pyle, 12/9, 82; Mary Jones, 12/13, 95; Shirley Lehman, 12/13, 89; John Patterson, 12/13, 81.

THANK YOU FROM THE LWML

The LWML is so thankful for the generous giving of our congregation! A total of \$1,572 was given to the Lutheran Women in Mission from our mite collection used for various local, national and international grants.



**CHECK OUT THE WINTER MINISTRY CATALOG AND
THE 2023 IMPACT REPORT IN THE LOBBY!**

As you reflect back on the year, how have you become more like Jesus, belonged to the body of Christ, and blessed the world around you? Share your story with us by emailing rhonda@stmfw.org!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY:

Check out St. Michael's favorite Bible verses!

