

January

St. Michael newsletter



Old
Testament
Characters

CONNECT with Pastor Goff

Happy New Year!

As you know, last year I encouraged us to read through the New Testament. In doing so, we divided up the chapters of the New Testament and assigned five chapters a week. I know some of you kept up with your reading through the year because some of you even mentioned to me over the last few weeks of December, "I'm lost in reading Revelation." (That means you're still reading!) I understand the feeling. For those of you who may have started strong at the beginning of the year but trailed off somewhere, I'm thankful you read what you did.

Well, if we read the New Testament last year, it would only make sense for us to read the Old Testament this year, right? Well, maybe it's not that simple. For 2024, our plan is to preach on a number of Old Testament characters that will sequentially carry us through the Old Testament. (There will be a few exceptions through the year because of certain areas of focus.) Obviously, there is no way to cover every Old Testament character in a year, but we've picked out a number of them. Some Old Testament figures will no doubt be familiar to you, but maybe a few will be people you have heard about only a little.



So, rather than doing a straight reading plan this year through the Old Testament, each week we will include in your Parish Notes a few chapters (some weeks more than others, but manageable) to read that are connected to the character we are preaching on. In doing so, you will have a little broader context on that particular Bible character. You can use those readings as a part of your personal devotions each day/week.

Going along with our Old Testament reading, let me highlight a few of the Adult Bible Classes that will be offered in the new year. On the first Sunday, January 7, I will offer a general Old Testament introduction. Then, for the next four weeks, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Pulse, professor of Old Testament at Concordia Theological Seminary will lead us through a presentation/discussion on "Reading the Old Testament Christologically" which means seeing Jesus in the Old Testament.

After Rev. Pulse's class, St. Michael member, Pastor Gary Endersby, will begin a six-week class on "A Hebrew Perspective for Understanding the Bible." In this class he will introduce us to Hebrew culture, tradition and language, and some of the Ancient Near Eastern practices. Then after Easter, I will finish out the spring with individual classes on the Old Testament books and characters we are covering in April and May (Joshua – 2 Samuel).

I encourage you to take advantage of these classes (and there will be other adult classes offered as well) that may assist with your Old Testament reading.

This year, 2024, is the 70th anniversary of St. Michael as a congregation. We will be celebrating this in various ways through the year under the theme, "70th Jubilee: Set Free to Tell the Story." All the Old Testament characters we will be reading have all been a part of telling God's story of salvation. Consequently, you and I are beneficiaries of their story, and likewise we continue to tell the salvation story through the ministry of our church and through our daily lives. But it all starts with what is in God's Word. Let's begin the year together in the Old Testament.

Happy reading in this new year,

Pastor Goff

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE THANK YOU!

Redemption House recently picked up the 16 mattresses that our members provided! Amazingly, we also provided funds for another 9 mattresses! Our St. Michael family gave 125 gift cards that were distributed to 14 families. In addition, each family received a basket filled with non-perishable household items such as paper towels and toilet paper. Thank you, St. Michael, for your generosity!

BLESSING HIS WORLD

"Therefore, go and make disciples..." Matthew 28:29

As we approach a new year, it provides us with an opportunity to pour into the people around us. If we look at Jesus' example, we see that he poured into his direct disciples, especially his inner circle of four. Who in your life can you disciple? Who can you step alongside, be an example of being a child of God, and pray for daily? Write that person's name down and a Bible verse that you think might encourage them on a notecard. Put the notecard somewhere you will see it daily as a reminder to be intentional in connecting with that person throughout 2024.

2024 MISSION FOCUS

In the upcoming year, we are excited to channel our collective energy into an intentional exploration of the various ways you are in our community and are making a positive impact through service. Our aim is to uncover these meaningful contributions and provide opportunities for others to join in these acts of service.

We are already familiar with some incredible ministries, such as the Redemption House, Shepherd's Hand Outreach Center, NINE, and Camp Lutherhaven. However, we are fully aware that there are numerous other organizations that people are connected to and are making a difference. If you are actively involved in serving opportunities and would like to invite others to become the hands and feet of Christ in the areas you serve, we encourage you to share this information with Pastor Shawn. Together, let's expand our collective outreach and continue to be a beacon of love and service in our community as we bless His world.

THE BRIDGE MINISTRY

The Bridge Ministry at St. Michael was established with a vision to connect disengaged young adults with the vibrant ministries at St. Michael. In the wake of the worldwide quarantine in 2020, we observed a concerning increase in disengagement among individuals aged 25-44. Today, I am excited to have a renewed focus on working with young adults, aiming to create a community that is not only connected within St. Michael but also extends its reach to partnering congregations and the community throughout Fort Wayne.

Our goal over the next year is to foster a community of young adults who are both equipped and intentionally on a mission, engaging with disengaged peers where they live, work, and play. Stay tuned each month for ways that you can contribute to this important mission.

This Month: Prayer and Intentional Listening

For January, we invite you to dedicate time to prayer for the young adults in your life and to intentionally listen to their hopes and aspirations. This could be someone from church, work, or even a family member. As we embark on the New Year, a meaningful conversation starter is: **"What are you hoping for this year?"** Follow up with a genuine interest, asking them to share more about their aspirations.

Let us embark on this journey together, building bridges that connect people to Jesus!

Pastor Shawn

*"You will be my witnesses in
Jerusalem, and in all Judea
and Samaria, and to the
ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8*

CONNECT with Stephanie Maxson

For HE (the Father) has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. Colossians 1:13-14

Welcome to the year of JUBILEE! A celebration of what God has given us both personally and through HIS work at St. Michael. Let's start with the personal.....God has given us freedom through JESUS! We are free from the darkness of death and our sins because of Jesus' victory over death and the mercy he gives us through the forgiveness of our sins. This gives us cause to CELEBRATE! Yup, we are going to celebrate ALL year by praising the ONE who continues to give us victory and forgiveness EVERY DAY!

Jubilee (Vs. 1) by Michael Card

*The Lord provided for a time of the slaves to be set free.
For the debts to all be cancelled so His chosen one could see
His deep desire was for forgiveness, He longed to see their liberty
And His yearning was embodied in the year of Jubilee.*

*Jubilee, Jubilee! Jesus is the Jubilee!
Debts forgiven, slaves set free!
Jesus is our Jubilee!*

WINTER ACADEMY SESSION BEGINS JANUARY 7

Welcome *new* instructor; Carolyn Meyer!

Mrs. Meyer has a Bachelor of Arts in Music and will be teaching violin, viola, piano, and voice. Her husband Rev. Jonathon Meyer is the new Shepherd of the School for ESM. Welcome to the Academy staff!

Classes are filling up! Register now at academy.stmfw.org to secure your spot for private music lessons.

2024 IS THE YEAR TO JOIN THE CHOIR!!!

Our choirs are ready to start up again and would love to have you join us!!!! Here are the start dates:

VOCAL CHOIRS

Adult Choir (SATB) Wednesday, January 3 @ 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, January 10 @ 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, January 3 @ 6:30p in the sanctuary (meets bi-weekly)

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

MUSIC with Stephanie Maxson continued

BELL CHOIRS

Harmony Ringers (HS-99yrs) Monday, January 8 @ 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, January 8 @ 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) Monday, January 8 @ 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.

INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS

Flute Choir meets Sundays at 9:10-10:10 in the sanctuary, starting January 7

Starting in February.....

Full Orchestra	1 st Thursday of the month at 6:30
Strings Choir	2 nd Thursday of the month at 6:30p
Brass Choir	3 rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00p
Woodwind Choir	4 th Thursday of the month at 6:00p

JANUARY SATURDAY PRAISE TEAM LINE-UP

January 6	New Song
January 13	Life Song
January 20	King's Strings
January 27	Life Song



**Save the date of Wednesday, February 14
Ash Wednesday Worship at 11:00a and 7:00p**

Join us for a noon luncheon †

YOUTH with Emma Deines

CHECK-IN WITH DCE INTERN EMMA!

Happy New Year! As we enter 2024 our youth will be focusing on identity, belonging, and purpose. Students will discover who and whose they are, how they are apart of the church, and how they can go into their world and share the Gospel. Through youth nights, small groups, and fellowship events students will grow together and discover what it means to be a disciple. I look forward to all that God has planned for 2024, so I invite you to join in the adventure.



Elf Christmas Extravaganza! Sixth through ninth grade youth all gathered together to join and spread some Christmas cheer. The youth enjoyed eating real Elf food and experiencing the Elf culture. What movie will we watch next year? You'll just have to wait and see.



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!

High School Summer Servant Event - What are you doing this summer?

This summer High School youth will head to Camp Linn Haven in North Carolina! More details will be coming. 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! - January 17 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 January 17th! See you there!

"Connect" - For 8th Grade Confirmation. - meets every Tuesday, is on break until after Christmas, and will Re-Connect **Tuesday, January 9** from 3:00p-5:30p at Electric Works!

SPECIAL NOTE *from Emma Deines*

Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of getting to know the people of St. Michael. It is with great joy that I can report the acceptance of the call to St. Michael Lutheran Church to serve as the Director of Youth Ministry. After prayerful consideration and with firm conviction, I believe God has called me here to St. Michael.



I look forward to participating in the ministry with you as we “connect people to Jesus and others”. As we challenge ourselves to become more like Christ, as we belong to His church, and as we continue to bless the world around us. In the coming months, I look forward to continuing to plan and implement the St. Michael Confirmation program, investing in our youth, and vision planning as we look forward to all that God has planned for the youth at St. Michael.

I can't wait to start this adventure with you! Thank you, St. Michael!

CLHS

CLHS “LAST LOOK” OPEN HOUSE—January 21, 12:00p-3:00p

Our high school is hosting our "Last Look" Open House which starts at noon on Sunday, January 21 for any family interested in sending their student to Concordia. Students from **ALL GRADES** are welcome along with their parents and families! Those who attend will have an opportunity to see the school and learn more about the programs we offer. You can meet with teachers and learn more about our academic and extracurricular opportunities. You can register online at clhscadets.com/open-house. Please select a time for your guided tour. Our last guided tour will be offered at 2 p.m. If you have any questions, you can contact Dawn Schuller, CLHS Director of Admissions and Retention, at (260) 483-1102, ext. 298 or dschuller@clhscadets.com.

CHRISTMAS BUREAU RESULTS

CLHS students, faculty and staff were able to collect and donate five bikes and 253 boxes of goods and items as gifts to 26 families and four senior citizens who took part in the 2023 Allen County Christmas Bureau program. Thank you to all who contributed their time and donations to be a blessing to others during the Christmas season.

24-HOUR THEATER FESTIVAL PUBLIC PERFORMANCE—February 10, 7:00p

The 24-Hour Theater Festival is an event the CLHS Theatre Department sponsors each year to encourage students to give theater a try. Each year, upwards of 80+ students are involved. Students can participate as writers, directors, actors, dancers, tech crew, set design or stage crew. The event begins at 7 p.m. on Friday night, when the writers gather to pair up and write four shows. The next morning the directors meet with the writers to go over their shows and then are handed a list of students who will be their actors. Students then break up into their various casts and start preparing their shows, while the set, stage and tech crews also prepare for the show.

Performances of the four original student produced shows will be on Saturday, February 10 at 7:00p, 24 hours after the writers first met to write the shows. It is open to the public! Cost is \$2.00 or a canned good, which will be donated to the school's "Canstruction" student project.



Concordia Lutheran
High School

BELONGING TO GOD'S PEOPLE *with Celine Newman*

As we begin our new year we continue working to get people at St. Michael connected into His community. By God's design, Christian community is an essential part of being a disciple. It is in Christian Community that we are encouraged, supported, and find accountability, and it is Christian community that we are both reminded of our unshakable belonging in Christ as well as experience belonging amongst his people. Being a part of Christian community is essential to growing into the people God calls us to be. With this in mind...

TYPES OF COMMUNITY GROUPS AT ST. MICHAEL

We know that it takes time and repetition to get a new concept in our minds. So, I wanted to take this opportunity to share the design of our Community Groups at St Michael. I hope that as you look at how you are connected to God's people this will be an important piece to help with knowing how to become more connected yourself or knowing how to help others become more connected.

Community Groups at St Michael exist as a means for people to experience connection with Jesus through intentional Christian community.

There are three large categories:

Bible Study Groups	Connect Groups	Serve Groups
<i>Groups gathered around the study of God's word.</i>	<i>Groups gathered around common interests, geography, life-stage.</i>	<i>Groups gathered around the intention to serve or lead inside and outside the building.</i>
<i>The main focus is edification in God's word</i>	<i>The main focus is fellowship.</i>	<i>The main focus is to actively be fulfilling a need.</i>
<i>These groups will likely reform every time a new topic is begun.</i>	<i>These groups are likely to be "life-long" or members may come and go as they identify with the identity of the group.</i>	<i>These groups will be active as long as the needs exist, resources of people, and money are available.</i>

This chart is an attempt to make things clear for communication purposes. But, groups may fit characteristics of several categories. In fact, the more a group does this, the more well-rounded it will be, (i.e. a Bible Study group scheduling time for fellowship and participating in service events together; a Connect Group spending time in God's word together and participating in service events; and a Serve Group being purposeful about devotions at each gathering and gathering with a focus on fellowship and not service.)

BELONGING TO GOD'S PEOPLE *continued*

"I'm still unclear about Connect Groups and Bible Study Groups, and you have been talking about them a lot. Can you help me understand the difference?"

Sure! Bible Study Groups are formed with the purpose of going through a specific study such as looking at Love Languages or going through a book of the Bible and when that study is done then the group is done. A connect group may do a Bible study together, but members of this group will stay in the group after the Bible study curriculum is done. Perhaps they will continue to gather for prayer, or meals, or even the next study. It is always possible that a Bible Study group becomes more of a Connect Group.

Connect Groups may also form around an activity - such as dartball, a stage of life - such as being a mom, and location - a small group that meets in families' homes.

We certainly hope that you find community and connection in both types of groups. It is not as important that a group fits a category as it is that we are finding belonging here at St. Michael. If you have further questions, would like to be a part of community life at St. Michael, or are interested in starting a group, then let's meet up! I want to hear more. - Celine Newman, Director of Belonging

MENTAL WELLNESS SERIES AT ST. MICHAEL

St. Michael will offer a series of presentations over the next five months related to mental wellness. One in five adults (some statistics say 1 in 4) are living with a mental health disorder. Over the course of our life time, one in every two people will be impacted by a mental health challenge in some way. As a church, we believe that God has made us with body, mind, and spirit and so it is appropriate for the body of Christ to address all three to some degree. These sessions will begin an awareness of the importance of caring for our mental and emotional wellness. These sessions will be held in Luther Hall and child care will be available. The first few events in the series are the following:

January 16 (Tuesday), 6:30p-7:30p Anxiety Awareness

Through discussion we will work to set a foundation by defining and reviewing the basics of anxiety. We will then shift gears and spend the second half of the evening focusing on parenting with mental health in mind. Presenter: Heather Carter, LSW (ESM School Counselor)

February 20 (Tuesday), 6:30p-7:30p Depression and Faith in the Life of the Christian

It doesn't matter if you call it clinical depression, seasonal affective disorder, or just "winter," the fact is that depression is a part of our lives. It may be that you suffer from it, or a loved one or friend, or that you simply want to learn more about it. We will discuss the relationship between depression and faith, and the most elusive thing when we are suffering, namely, hope in Christ. Presenter: Rev. Dr. Todd A. Peperkorn (Assistant Professor of Pastor Ministry and Missions, Director of Vicarage at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne)

Watch for more dates and topics to come!

FAMILY MINISTRY *with Jen Clendenen*

5 SIMPLE STEPS TO ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY'S FAITH JOURNEY IN THE NEW YEAR

Parents are the primary influencers in their children's lives, and their behavior and choices significantly impact how children perceive and embrace their faith. Choose one area to focus on implementing more intentionally in 2024. Modeling good examples plays a crucial role in shaping a child's spiritual foundation.

1. Daily Prayer:

Start the day with a family prayer before everyone begins their activities. This sets a positive tone for the day and allows for moments of reflection and gratitude. This can be done over breakfast or on the drive to school. Intentionally pray over your children as they begin each new day. Let them hear you and encourage their participation.

2. Be in the Word:

Parents can choose a specific time each day or week to read a Bible passage, devotion, or story together with their children. Aim to spend more time in the Word together and on your own. This provides an opportunity for parents to model the importance of studying and understanding God's word. Listen to an audio version of the Bible if that's more your style. If your child attends ESM, study their memory together and talk about what it means to you and how it applies to your lives.

3. Family Worship:

Start your week out on a good note by worshiping together as a family. Attend a Sunday School class based on your age or interest. Shift the weekly question from *Are we going to church this weekend?* to an assumption that attending church is a given. This reinforces the importance of regular attendance and encourages a sense of consistency.

4. Grace before Meals:

Teach children the habit of saying a prayer of thanks before every meal. This simple act of gratitude fosters an attitude of appreciation for the blessings in their lives, while also reminding them of their faith.

5. Service to Others:

Parents can encourage their children to look for opportunities to practice random acts of kindness or service to the world around them. This could be unique to the personalities and comfort levels within your family. Brainstorm ways to bless the world around you each week or month. This could range from holding a door for someone to volunteering, participating in a church program, donating items, or simply helping a neighbor or friend. By witnessing their parents' selfless actions, children will internalize the importance of following Jesus' example in serving others.

Remember, parents should strive to be authentic in their faith and consistent in their practices. By setting an example through their own actions, parents can effectively incorporate faith into their family's daily life and lay a strong foundation for their children's spiritual growth.

May this January be the start of a year filled with an abundance of joy and growth within each of our families!



BELONG

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

STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AFTER THE JANUARY PLANNING MEETING! KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR PARISH NOTES, NEWSLETTERS AND EMAILS FOR ALL THE DETAILS OF 2024. GOD'S BLESSINGS ON YOUR NEW YEAR! STAY CONNECTED!



GAP MINISTRY—January 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 worship conference room after the services.

PRAYING FOR OUR NATION—January 3/17

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—January 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—January 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, January 18

This month we are reading *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. 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

Ushering & Greeting is a wonderful way to serve together as a family! Would you consider serving with your son/daughter or grandson/granddaughter? Thank you! Please contact Dave Crow, lead usher at dcrowboilers65@icloud.com or Jen Chafee at jenchaffee5@yahoo.com sign up!

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, whether currently serving in a leadership role or not, is invited to any of the four large group sessions with 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 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
April 28	Congregational Meeting
June 8/9	Camp Lutherhaven Retreat
July 20 or 21	Cook Out Celebration
September 8	Rally Day
October 26/27	Fall Family Fun Festival
December 14/15	TBD

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!

EMMANUEL-ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

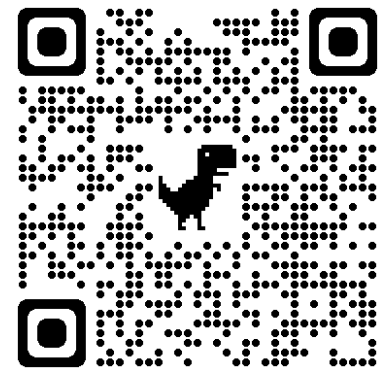
Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School will be joining with Lutheran Schools around the country and the world to celebrate during the week of January 21. We are thankful for Emmanuel and St. Michael congregations and their faithful support of ESM both spiritually and financially. ESM celebrates its unique mission as a distinctively Lutheran school in providing 'Education for Life and Faith for Eternity'!

ESM KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL INFORMATION AND ENROLLMENT SESSIONS

Are you exploring Preschool or Kindergarten options for your child? Do you have a friend or neighbor who is looking for an excellent school for their family? With a long history of academic achievement, Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School exceeds the standard for excellence of education in northeast Indiana. However, at ESM we hope to provide even more. In partnership with families, that foundation of faith, academic excellence, and preparation for a life of service and leadership is formed. Come learn more! REGISTER ONLINE at www.esmeagles.com.

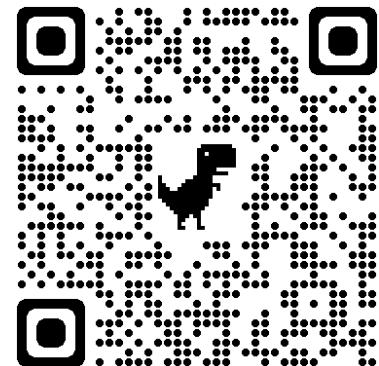
KINDERGARTEN Information and Enrollment Sessions:

- Wednesday, January 17 OR Thursday, February 15
- 6:30p-8:00p | Getz Road Campus - 2131 Getz Road
- Bring your future student for a fun activity with teachers!
- Childcare provided for siblings



PRESCHOOL Information and Enrollment Sessions:

- Thursday, February 1 | Getz Road Campus - 2131 Getz Road
OR Thursday, February 8 | Union Street Campus - 1123 Union Street
- 6:30p-7:30p
- Information session for parents
- Childcare provided



QUESTIONS? - Contact Erin Clark, Director of Admissions
422-6712 | eclark@esmeagles.com | www.esmeagles.com

ST. MICHAEL FINANCIAL UPDATE

November 2023


<u>INCOME</u>	Actual	Budgeted	Actual vs budget
Offerings	\$1,455,949	\$1,520,658	\$(64,709)
Facility	\$10,785	\$11,458	\$(673)
Interest	\$16,977	\$6,417	\$10,560
Grants	\$21,057	\$27,741	\$(6,684)
Fellowship	\$1,677	\$-	\$1,677
ESM/CLHS Support	\$131	\$4,500	\$(4,369)
Misc.	\$1,975	\$1,500	\$475
Total Income	\$1,508,551	\$1,572,274	\$(63,723)
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Missions	\$18,510	\$18,177	\$333
Education	\$552,662	\$602,021	\$(49,359)
Youth & Family	\$12,684	\$17,258	\$(4,574)
Administrative	\$36,838	\$30,687	\$6,151
Pastoral Support	\$6,551	\$8,491	\$(1,940)
Worship	\$17,109	\$18,227	\$(1,118)
Boards & Committees	\$11,773	\$14,071	\$(2,298)
Utilities, Maintenance & Supplies	\$164,055	\$163,620	\$435
Salaries	\$524,654	\$531,652	\$(6,998)
Taxes and Benefits	\$154,126	\$162,240	\$(8,114)
Nursery, Gym Setup, Worship	\$5,775	\$7,072	\$(1,297)
Total Expenses	\$1,504,737	\$1,573,516	\$(68,779)
Net Income (Loss)	\$3,814	\$(1,242)	\$5,056

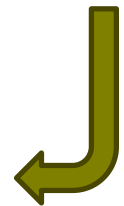
2024 Approved Budget

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.

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.

ELDERS

WHO IS YOUR ELDER?

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

Craig Patterson

cpatterson@beckmanlawson.com

Ryan Meyer

ryanlmeyer68@gmail.com

Adam Hahn

jjandak@cinergymetro.net

John Baker

jdbake22@gmail.com

John Hein

JHein@brotherhoodmutual.com

John Hendrickson

jlh1051@gmail.com

Keith Miller

keithcherimiller@frontier.com

Bob Boyd

jdalesells@yahoo.com

Mark Muntzinger

Mark.Muntzinger21@gmail.com

Michael Kuhn

mdkuhn8214@gmail.com

Nathan Nix

nathananix@gmail.com

Paul Selking

pselking1@gmail.com

Jeremy Allyn

energymanallyn@gmail.com

Bob Cole

bob51cole@aol.com

Al Claus

aclaus4@yahoo.com

Steve Manges

slmanges@gmail.com

Paul Leininger

Indylein@comcast.net



GOD'S BLESSINGS ON OUR JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES!

God's blessings to...	Day	Years	God's blessings to...	Day	Years
Ken and Susan Faus	1/4	19	John and Carol Olry	1/13	56
Zach and Nicole Evans	1/6	23	Bill and Mary Davis	1/21	57
Philip and Ashley Murphy	1/8	2	Walt and Diane Hess	1/21	28
Steve and Anni Rhodes	1/8	42	Jim and Pat Williams	1/21	57
Paul and Jane Sieber	1/11	49	Marty and Paula Cole	1/26	33
			Thomas and Rebecca Lutz	1/26	6

JANUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS



We will celebrate baptism birthdays on January 20/21. Please pray for Jack Burgess; Jack Bains; Sophia Fieldhouse; Elijah Jomo; Franklin and Ben Mendenhall; Lincoln Robinson-Selking; and Anora Bornheimer.

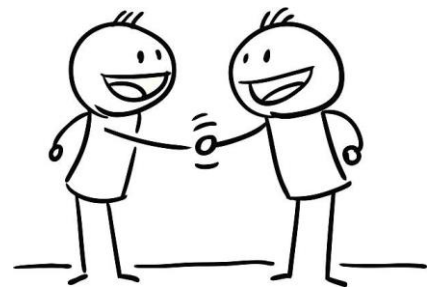
JANUARY MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

God's blessings to: Cathy Reinking, 1/2, 84; Joretta Black, 1/6, 91; Dave Davis, 1/12, 81; Linda Hansen, 1/15, 81; Dorothy Smith, 1/20, 92; Wayne Scrogam, 1/26, 81; John Ribar, 1/27, 88; Lynn Auman, 1/29, 82; Janet Davis, 1/29, 81. **Happy Birthday!**

CHECK OUT OUR TOWN HALL MEETINGS!

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. We want all members of St. Michael to have opportunities to come and learn more about the proposed changes, ask questions, and connect with one another at "town hall" style meetings. Please mark your calendar for one of the dates below. We look forward to seeing you there!

- **February 11** 9:30a during Adult Bible Class
- **February 20** 1:00p during JOY Group
- **February 29** 6:30p at St. Michael
- **March 3** 12:00p at St. Michael
- **March 12** 6:30p online via Zoom
- **March 16** 6:15p following Saturday night service



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!