

MARCH newsletter

Join in Worship

Lenten services

Wednesdays
11:00a and 7:00p
through March 20

Palm Sunday

March 24

Maundy Thursday

March 28
11:00a and 7:00p

Good Friday

March 29
11:00a and 7:00p

Easter Sunday

March 31
7:00a | 9:00a | 11:00a



CONNECT with Pastor Goff

For those of you who have attended one of our Town Hall Meetings to discuss a restructure of the governance model at St. Michael, **thank you!** As I'm writing this, there are a few more town hall opportunities left. Whether you have attended one or not so far, please continue to share any questions you may have for greater clarification.

This process started last Fall when our Church Council approved working with the consultant, Jim Galvin. A LCMS church member himself, Jim has worked with many LCMS churches and ministry organizations on governance. Jim spent a day with our Church Governance Task Force last November. Prior to that day, the Task Force read his book, *Maximizing Board Effectiveness: A Practical Guide for Adaptive Governance*. The Task Force gleaned helpful insights in understanding the ins and outs of church governance.

I'm a visual learner and the opening exercise Jim did with us that day was eye opening for me. He asked each of us to draw out the current organizational structure for our church. After about 10-15 minutes, we looked at one another's and realized everyone drew something different. What that said to me is that whatever system we have right now is not well understood.

As our congregation goes through this process, I think there are a couple **goals** we have. For one thing, as the above illustration suggests, **clarity** is needed in how things operate especially in relationship between the church council and the staff. Secondly, the proposed governance model will provide for greater **accountability** for both staff and congregational leadership.

In addition to the governance review we are going through, the Church Council recently authorized a Facility Review Task Force. The purpose of this task force is to examine the entire campus and overall **facility needs** for both the church and school. As of this writing, we will have met twice. As the process moves along, there will be opportunity for the congregation to identify priorities.

The above two efforts, **Church Governance Task Force** and the **Facility Review Task Force**, address areas I heard expressed during the call interview for senior pastor. These are both areas (and there are others too) that I clearly heard needed attention.

In addition to the above efforts...

***There is no greater priority for us
than what we will celebrate as a church the end of this month...
the resurrection of Jesus!***



It is the victory of Jesus, God's Son, over sin and death and hell that the church is here. For each of us, new life is offered, forgiveness is given, and salvation has been won. We now live at peace with God through the victory of Jesus whose death and resurrection atoned for our sins. If it wasn't for Easter, the church would not be here. Everything we do, everything we do, revolves around the resurrection of Jesus!

It's because the resurrection of Jesus is our purpose for being the church, we want to continually look at the ways in which we carry out the church's ministry as efficiently and effectively as possible. I pray that nothing we ever do deters us from the one thing that brings us together – Jesus.

Pastor Goff

THE BRIDGE MINISTRY

Over the past 6 months, I have the joy and privilege of being a part of a learning cohort through the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) focused on Young Adult Ministry. As we looked at realigning my call back to a concentration on Young Adults (YA), I thought it could be fruitful to sit with other church leaders from other denominations who are trying to figure out the same thing we are - how do we reach the missing generations in the church. The six months were filled with coaching calls, assessments, and learning times with the cohort. Sadly, our time came to a conclusion last month.

Here are some things I have taken away from my time with FYI:

- Young adults throughout the country are eager to have spiritual conversations
- More than likely, YA will not initiate the spiritual conversations
- Many YA are seeking people “who have been there and done that” to help guide them
- 85% of YA said that if they were asked, they would be interested in having a conversation and getting to know someone who was older than them

Throughout the six months a common theme came up through the assessments and our cohort conversations. **Young Adults want to be a part of things but need a personal invitation.** They may be in a season where they are not able to do everything. However, they recognize to have a sense of belonging, they need to do something.

Over the course of this month you can make a difference in the life of a Young Adult. Be intentional. Connect with someone in your life and invite them to coffee, go for a walk, or have a meal. And be sure to invite them to sit with you for Easter Worship!

YOUNG ADULT GATHERINGS

The Bridge Ministry is working towards helping young adults connect deeper into God's Word and to each other. How? Setting up a monthly time, place, and space to gather young adults from St. Michael, Emmanuel, and the community. We were blessed to find the Upper Room at Electric Works' GE Club that we were able to rent at a discounted rate. This past Sunday we had 17 people who gathered as we talked about Kairos moments, John 5, and played games. We are planning to have these gatherings monthly in the Upper Room (at the GE Club).

Our next gathering is Sunday, March 25 from 4:00p-6:00p. If you know someone who might be interested, feel free to pass along the information or let me (Pastor Shawn) know and I will connect with them to personally invite them!

SAVE THE DATE FOR GO AND SERVE!

Join us on **Saturday, April 27** to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We are working with our partners in ministry and other community organizations to finalize all the details. We want you to be a part!

COACHING

Often we can feel stuck and not know how to move forward with something in our lives. If that is you, there is potential that life coaching may be beneficial. Helping you process through overwhelming elements of life, or situations in which you don't know what to do, and bring about some action, while understanding where grace enters the picture. Pastor Shawn has been coaching for 2 years and is available for coaching sessions.

Learn more at pastordavis@stmfw.org.

Or schedule a coaching session at calendly.com/pastor_shawn/coaching

BLESSING HIS WORLD

REDEMPTION HOUSE GALA

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



REDEMPTION HOUSE MINISTRY

Redemption House is a network of transition homes for women who desire to redeem their lives from past destructive behavior by developing a faith-based lifestyle and by gaining the skills necessary to achieve and maintain success.

St. Michael will provide a meal and Christian community at Wayne Street on March 3 and Fairfield Avenue on March 17. If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, please contact Linda Chapman at 417-3052.

THE SHEPHERD'S HAND COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

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

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



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

Early bird registration is \$20 person through March 31 and guarantees a race T-shirt. Registrations after that date will be \$25, and participants will receive a T-shirt as long as supplies last. Children 8 and under are free. If you are unable to participate in the race, you can support the ministry by sponsoring a race slot to benefit another participant or make a general donation. For more information and to sign up or donate scan the QR code!



SUPPORT LCMS DISASTER RESPONSE AND TRAINING

Are you interested in helping a community recover after a natural disaster and showing the love of Christ to people in need? Have you ever volunteered for a Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT)? Your opinion can help LCMS Disaster Response and Training improve its organization and training of LERT volunteers so that they are ready to deploy when a natural disaster strikes. Please take a brief survey at lcms.org/lert-survey-congregation and let us know how you think we can improve LERT training and provide relief more effectively to natural disasters. We would appreciate receiving all responses by **March 15**. All responses are completely anonymous and confidential. If you have any questions, please reach out to the LCMS Church Information Center at [888-THE LCMS](tel:888-THE-LCMS) (843-5267) or infocenter@lcms.org.

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH/AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Join us in Luther Hall on Saturday March 16 from 8:00a-1:00p! The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime! Visit RedCrossBlood.org and search sponsor code STMICFW or call 1-800-REDCROSS. Thank you for supporting this important organization!

[Click here to make an appointment](#)

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

WHAT TO EXPECT OF HOLY WEEK AT ST. MICHAEL

Holy Week is a season of the Church calendar that includes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter worship services. This week in the church year is a favorite of many.

Palm Sunday Weekend (March 23/24) We celebrate Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem. Palm branches will be handed out as we recount the celebration of the coming of a king, all the while knowing he arrives to provide the ultimate sacrifice in his death on the cross for us.

Maundy Thursday (March 28 at 11:00a and 7:00p) We remember Jesus' Passover meal with his disciples. At this meal, he also instituted the practice of communion. We remember the darkness of desertion, as later that evening the disciples left Jesus. Purple is the color of the cloth that adorns the sanctuary. As we participate in this service, we solemnly acknowledge the humility, love, mercy, and obedience that Jesus displayed. While Psalm 22 is sung, everything is removed from the altar in preparation for the Tenebrae service.

Good Friday (March 29 at 11:00a and 7:00p) is a service that began in the early Christian church. It is also called the Order of Tenebrae or Darkness. Black cloth is draped throughout the sanctuary and during the service, light is gradually removed. Scriptural accounts tell the story that brings us closer to the crucifixion of our Savior. As the last bit of light leaves the sanctuary, we hear a loud sound representing the point in history when the tomb was closed. This is not a funeral service for Jesus, but a means of bringing us into repentance and contemplation of the price Jesus' paid for our sins as well as the powerful hope of resurrection. **As we enter into the church building, you will notice several prayer stations set up in the Lobby. Please take time to visit them.** Experience meditative music 20 minutes before the service with artwork depicting Jesus' life and ministry. We enter and leave in silence.

EASTER WORSHIP (Sunday, March 31 at 7:00a, 9:00a, and 11:00a)

Our **Easter worship services** are times of **great celebration** as we **proclaim Christ's VICTORY** over death, sin, and the devil! We celebrate with scripture, music, and meditation on what GOD has done! Once again, this year we will have **three Easter worship services**:

- **7:00a** An Easter sunrise worship service in the sanctuary with communion, choir (including the *Halleluiah Chorus*), and bells. There will be a children's message and a special children's activity bag available for families when you enter worship.
- **9:00a** An Easter worship service of celebration in the sanctuary with communion, choir (including the *Halleluiah Chorus*), orchestra, and bells. There will be a children's message, special children's activity bag for families when you enter worship.
- **11:00a** An Easter worship service of celebration in the sanctuary with communion, blending elements of traditional and non-traditional songs and hymns using additional band instruments along with the orchestra and organ with music led by a "Gospel" choir. We will do a mixture of songs including *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*, *Resurrection Power* and *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*. This service will also include a children's message and special children's activity bag for families when you enter worship.

NOTE: The nursery will be staffed for the 9:00a and 11:00a worship services.

This is a great time to invite someone to worship as we CELEBRATE CHRIST who gives us hope for eternity, peace and great JOY! We are excited to praise HIM with everything we have!

CONNECT with Stephanie Maxson

JOIN THE EASTER GOSPEL CHOIR!

Come join the first ever St. Michael "Gospel" Choir! This group of singers will help lead worship for the 11:00a Easter Contemporary Blended service! We will meet to rehearse: Sunday, March 10 from 3:00p-4:30p and Sunday, March 24 from 1:30-3:00p.

JOIN THE ORCHESTRA!

Are you an instrumentalist? Join our orchestra! We will be working on music for both the 9:00a traditional service and 11:00a blended contemporary. We will rehearse every Thursday in March from 6:30p-7:30p. Contact our Worship Director, Stephanie at stephanie@stmfw.org if you have any questions.

JOIN THE CREATIVE TEAM!

Did you enjoy the psalms and poetry that we used during our midweek Lenten services? Do you enjoy creating art, journaling, or arranging music? Do you have ideas about what we could visually display in our building or on our website to connect people to God's Word? We would love to hear your thoughts and have you join us in creative brainstorming! We will meet next on **Thursday, March 7 and March 21 at 6:00p** in the St. Michael lobby to brainstorm/create around the theme of *Identity* and would love to have you join us!

ACADEMY NEWS

Please join us for the Annual Academy Dinner on March 9 at 6:30p!

- Menu:** Bronze chicken, garlic smashed potatoes, oven roasted vegetables, garden salad and dinner roll
- Cost:** \$15/adult
\$10/children 12 and under
- Enjoy:** Entertainment provided by our Academy Students
- Goal:** Raise money to provide scholarships and purchase equipment for the coming year!

EASTER BREAKFAST

8:00a-11:00a in the gym

Enjoy the community at St. Michael plus biscuits and gravy, baked French Toast, scrambled eggs and fruit, all prepared by Chef Terry Hammond. A free will offering will help to cover the cost of the event. Can you help with service or cleanup? We are looking for 20 volunteers between 7:00a-12:00p. Contact celine@stmfw.org.

EASTER FLOWERS



Along with the beautiful decorations in our lobby and entrance, flowers add to our festive worship services! **Please consider purchasing flowers** for our Easter celebration by picking up a **form at the Information Center** or filling out a form **online at stmfw.org**. Not only do the flowers add to our worship, but you can take them home as a reminder of the new life God gives us through HIS resurrection victory!

CONNECT with Stephanie Maxson continued

FINE ARTS CAMP

Registration is now open! Spots are limited, so don't wait! Brochures with additional information about FAC schedule and electives are located at the Information Desk.



What? FAC is a week-long summer day camp (9 am-3:30 pm) that provides an opportunity for youth to connect faith, creativity, and community. The week culminates in a Friday evening celebration where students will share their talents and art work with family/friends!

Who? FAC is open to all youth who have completed Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Campers will participate in a wide variety of visual and performing arts, like dance, drama, cooking, painting, sewing, wood-working, music, and have lots of fun, too!

Our faculty are talented, experienced teachers with a passion to praise God with art. Most are actively teaching in private, church, or public schools. They are deeply committed to sharing their talents and their faith.

Our amazing student volunteers are youth who have completed 9th-12th grade and serve as servant leaders during the FAC. Interested youth please email fineartscamp@stmfw.org to secure a volunteer spot.

Register March 1 through May 1 Read the FAC brochure carefully before you register, and register early to secure a spot. Email any questions to: fineartscamp@stmfw.org.

Tuition

1 child \$225, 2 children/family \$400, 3+ children (same family) \$525

*Intermediate/Jr High electives may have an additional \$10 material fee.

Financial assistance **scholarships** may be available. Contact fineartscamp@stmfw.org for details.

Before/After Care Hours (up to \$20/day)

Before Care: 7:30 to 9:00 am \$10/day

After Care: 3:30 to 5:00 pm \$10/day

\$50 Registration Fee (per student) is applied to tuition fees and is non-refundable after May 1, 2024.

The Fine Arts Camp is divided into three divisions to provide age-appropriate instruction.

PRIMARY DIVISION (2 Classes; 15 Students/Class)

For students who have completed Kindergarten or 1st grade

Enrollment limited to 30 students

Primary campers participate in a set program of scheduled activities throughout the day including a theme class, music, art, movement and hand chimes

INTERMEDIATE/JUNIOR HIGH DIVISIONS

Intermediate: For students who have completed grades 2-4

Junior High: For students who have completed grades 5-8. Students participate in 2 core classes (theme, music) and 3 electives.

CONNECT with Celine Newman

JUBILEE GENEROSITY EVENT

It was early, it was dark and it was awesome! Luther Hall was full of officers and St. Michael members as we enjoyed breakfast, connecting over conversation, making gifts for New Members, filling connect bags, and taking a prayer walk. As God's people we know God's generosity and the natural response is to be generous ourselves. We gave of our time and our presence and equipped those who were not able to make it to breakfast to do the same.



A HUGE thank you to the Anniversary Committee (Laura and Dennis Goff, Stephanie Maxson, Celine Newman, and Gretchen Weerts), Beth Ann Hargrove, and the many volunteers and donors who participated in Saturday's generosity event. If you are interested in being a part of future events, or would like to help with the historical pieces, please contact Celine Newman, celine@stmfw.org.



CONNECT BAGS

Have you seen these bags? These are for any St. Michael member to use in order to make a connection with someone. They have a small activity and snack inside, with some ideas for you to make it uniquely special. It's a great way to break the barrier and make a connection with someone you are just beginning to know!

There was also a great musical piece created for the opening celebration of our Jubilee 70th anniversary. **Thank you** to Owen Kaiser, a St. Michael member and our 2023 Summer Intern, for composing *Fanfare Prelude on the Year of Jubilee*. Thanks also to Denice Beights and Karen Manges for making the piece come to life! Owen will be writing seven Jubilee Fanfare's, one for each of our seven celebrations, as well as a larger choral piece which we will premiere on Reformation Day. St. Michael is so blessed to have such talented musicians who are willing to share their gifts with us!



In the worship services we also enjoyed a short video about the beginning history of St. Michael, as well as our photo displays.

We look forward to celebrating the next 10 years from 1964-1974 in April. Keep an eye out for details in the bulletin and April Newsletter!

Save the date of April 28 at 5:00p for our Congregational Dinner and Meeting!

CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

- **A Hebrew Perspective for Understanding the Bible** This study will examine Hebrew culture, tradition and language exploring Scripture and further understanding its meaning. Topics will include, but are not limited to, the impact of the Ancient New East practice of foot washing, the effective teaching methodology employed by Jesus, and exploration of “authority” in both the Old and New Testaments, and the people of Jesus’ time (i.e., Sadducees, Orthodox Jews, Gentiles, Zealots). Location – Gym.
- **Thrive: Living Resilient and Renewed** Using the Thrive workbook, this class is designed for helping anyone have strength, recovery and resilience from any mental health difficulty or disorder.
Location – Library
- **Money and Marriage God’s Way** This class is a video based Bible study from Compass Ministries. It provides insights for your marriage and your finances. Together, you will explore what God’s Word says about earning, spending, giving, debt reduction, and investing. You’ll also discover how to communicate more effectively and resolve conflict. Location – Conference Room
- **Creative Faith** with Jen Clendenen and Anna Davis Location – Room 13
- **GriefShare** Through this 13-week adventure, you’ll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. Join us Tuesday evenings, **March 5-May 28** from 6:30p-8:30p in Room 13. Contact Robert and Rebecca Boyd with questions at (862) 409-4520 or bb4bboyd@gmail.com.
- **Christian Foundations (5 Weeks) – Beginning March 3** This class is designed for those who are new to the Christian faith, new to the Lutheran church, or anyone who would like to renew some basic and foundational topics we confess and practice in the Christian faith. Location – Luther Hall
- **Mental Health Series in March: Dementia and Alzheimers – Tuesday, March 19, 6:30p-7:30p**
In this session, Anna Kohrman will address some tips and tricks to help caregivers and those involved in the journey of dementia. She will focus on what people living with dementia still have versus what they have lost in their life. There will be time available for Q and A from attendees.

HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE?

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN WORSHIP

Ushering and Greeting is a wonderful way to serve together as a family! Please contact Dave Crow, lead usher at dcrowboilers65@icloud.com or Jen Chafee at jenchaffee5@yahoo.com to sign up!

ARE YOU WILLING?

St. Michael would love to add to our service teams! Would you be willing to read in church? Serve with children’s church? Join our Information Desk Team? Volunteer in the nursery? Make coffee on Sunday mornings? Let Tina know in the church office at 432-2033!

FOOD HOSPITALITY MEETING—Sunday, March 17 at noon

Let’s look at our systems of providing food for our church’s gatherings, as well as for funerals and the potential of a meal train! Contact Celine Newman at celine@stmfw.org with questions!

LWML

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

When: June 21-23 **Where:** Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center, Danville, Indiana
If interested, please contact Linda Chapman at 260-417-3052.

YOUTH with Emma Deines

IDENTITY - KNOWING WHOSE YOU ARE

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

The focus of our Bible studies will be on identity, belonging, and purpose. Youth will discover who and whose they are, how they are a part 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.

One way our youth are showing their faith is through Confirmation Witness Speeches. Throughout the month, students from our 8th grade Confirmation class will be sharing their witness speech. Well done to those who have already spoken, and continued prayers and support for those who are scheduled in the coming weeks.

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

YOUTH NIGHTS! "FIND YOUR IDENTITY" March 3/17 and April 7/21

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

"CONNECT" FOR 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION

Meet with DCE Emma at Electric Works on Tuesdays from 3:00p-5:30p for snacks, games, and fellowship. Join us to find out who will be the next Avocado Smash Champion!

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHT! - MARCH 19 FROM 6:00p-8:00p

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

BE PART OF THE YOUTH GREETER TEAM! - MARCH 24

Are you in Middle or High School Youth? Do you like to say "hello" to people? Help us greet the people of St. Michael on March 24 at the 10:45 am service. If you would like to be on this team please email DCE Emma at emma@stmfw.org.

PURCHASE AN EASTER PIE AND SUPPORT ST. MICHAEL YOUTH!

Purchase a strawberry, key lime, or peanut butter pie, as well as a Chocolate Torte for \$25 each. Proceeds from the sale will support the youth traveling to North Carolina this summer and the 2025 National Youth Gathering. Pies will be available to pick up on Saturday, March 30, from 12:00p-12:30p and Easter Sunday from 8:00a-11:00a in the gym. **Please place your order by March 15.** Thanks!



YOUTH SHOUT OUT!

Do you know a Middle or High School Youth who need a shout out? Maybe they won a scholarship or award or participated in community service. We would like to give them a SHOUT OUT in our newsletter. Please send a brief description to DCE Emma (emma@stmfw.org) along with a picture and we will give your youth a SHOUT OUT for all the amazing work they are doing! **Check out Lexi Panning and Vaughn Hendrickson on page 11!**

TWILIGHT TOURS

Concordia invites parents of 5th-8th grade students to attend a guided 'Twilight Tour' of our high school on March 12 and March 19 at 7 p.m. Expect a peek at the day in the life of a freshman, admission information and a sweet treat. Questions? Contact CLHS Director of Admissions and Retention Dawn Schuller at 483-1102, ext. 298 or dschuller@clhscadets.com. You can find more information and register at this link: <https://go.clhscadets.com/twilight>

CLHS SUMMER PROGRAMS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

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

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

CLHS DAY OF GIVING IS MARCH 13

The Concordia Day of Giving will take place on Wednesday, March 13th. It will be an online, social media campaign for **one day only** to help fund multiple small projects throughout the school. Students from whichever class or program raises the most in donations that day will compete in the Students vs. Faculty basketball game. Make sure to keep an eye on CLHS social media feeds leading up to March 13 to find out more about which classes and programs are involved and what they are raising funds for.

CLHS BAND TOUR, MARCH 5-11

Concordia's band tour will begin on Tuesday, March 5 and will conclude with a final performance which will take place at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne on Monday, March 11 at 7:00p.

CONCORDIA HOSTS MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL, *DEAR EDWINA, JR.*, MARCH 23-24

Dear Edwina, Jr. is our middle school musical and will be presented on March 23 and 24 at 7:00p in the CLHS auditorium. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at the door. Students from eight different area middle schools are involved!

CONGRATULATIONS TO LEXI PANNING AND VAUGHN HENDRICKSON

St. Michael member Lexi Panning has been named the Salutatorian for her exemplary performance inside the classroom, taking a rigorous course load filled with AP and Honors courses. Well done! St. Michael member Vaughn Hendrickson was nominated for this year's Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award. The award recognizes service, leadership and patriotism in their homes, schools and communities. Congratulations!

FAMILY MINISTRY *with Jen Clendenen*

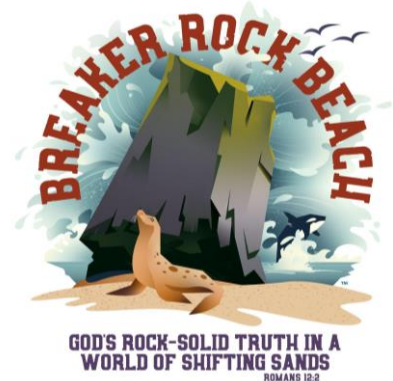
As we continue our journey toward Easter, I wanted to check in with you and share some exciting updates and events happening at St. Michael.

First, I want to remind you to pick up the family devotions written by our very own Bethany Andrews. These devotions are a wonderful way to deepen your family's faith journey during Lent. If you haven't already, there is still time to get your copy and add them to your family's routine.



Second, I want to personally invite you to two upcoming events that are sure to be a blessing to our church community. The first is an all-ages **Easter Jubilee on Palm Sunday**. This event will be a fun-filled celebration of the Easter season with activities, games, and treats for the whole family. I encourage you to join us for this special event. **We will need volunteers and donations of peanut-free candy for this special event. Please drop them under the lobby shelf outside the church office! Thank you!**

Additionally, we are excited to announce that **Vacation Bible School** will be held **June 17-21** this summer. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to grow in their faith and have a blast doing so. There are many ways to get involved with both of these events, and I invite you to consider serving on a team to help plan activities and events at St. Michael. Your ideas and contributions are valuable, and we would love to have your help in making these events a success.



If you are interested in serving on a planning team or have any questions about these events, please send me an email Jen@stmfw.org. Your support and involvement are greatly appreciated as we continue to serve the needs of the families of St. Michael.

Thank you for being a part of our church community, and I look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events.

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

To get a sneak peek of the music, check out: <https://vbs.lifeway.com/breaker-rock-beach-resources/>

BELONG

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

Thursday, March 14

Join us for a Game Day from 1:00p to 3:00p. We will have board games as well as decks of cards. Attendees are encouraged to bring their favorite games and snacks to share.

Thursday, April 11 (11:00a)

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

Thursday, May 9 (12:00p)

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

Tuesday, June 18 (7:05p)

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

GAP MINISTRY—March 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 conference room after the services.

PRAYING FOR OUR NATION—March 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— March 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—March 13/27



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

BOOK CLUB—Thursday, March 21

This month we are reading *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson. Contact Camille Blake at 409-9196 with questions.

GOD DOES WORK

In August, an intriguing experiment began. Emmanuel-St. Michael called a pastor to do pastoral work inside the school. There were lots of ideas of what all might be possible with a position like this, but we are all still finding out what God is up to in the midst of our work!

We sing a hymn that speaks to how God calls the disciples to “ventures bold and new,” (856:1). Sure enough it was a bold a new task for fisherman, but so much called back to what God had been at work at throughout the Old Testament. We see, in the ministry of the early church, how it was bold and new, but at the same time, so connected to everything that had come before. A beautiful balance, that God works out in the midst of it all.

I have gotten to meet and develop relationships with so many awesome students, and just beginning to scratch the surface of where that takes things. It’s all new, in the sense that there aren’t many pastors who work in this way. It’s different, it’s new! Yet, in the midst of that, God was at work, striking a balance between old and new. After praying with a student whose mother was ill, God worked it out that I was in the hospital room later that afternoon. With a serious procedure looming just ahead, God worked a moment very similar to something out of the book of Acts. She wanted to be baptized! There was water, there was word, there was God’s promise, delivered in the way it has been for millennia.

This is a wonderful reminder, that in all things, God does truly wonderful work. He brings about fresh, new adventures, and yet shows such great continuity. He is still at work, still delivering His gifts, in the way He always has. It may seem new and different to us, I know it does to me, but it’s still so connected to the same wonderful reality: God does good work.

Pastor Jon Meyer, Shepherd of the School

THANK YOU! A NOTE FROM SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DR. BEN STELLWAGEN

I've had a chance to talk to several people about how noticeable and meaningful it was to have the entire service on National Lutheran Schools Weekend themed to celebrate God's good work through St. Michael's ministry at ESM. I discussed it at our morning meetings and through school announcements. Bulletin, opening verses, prayers, readers, music--and not just the children singing but an adult choir piece devoted to it at early service--children's sermon, Pastor Shawn drawing attention to it, time for a ministry minute, etc., etc. There were a good number of visiting families at the late service, too, and I'm so thankful that they got to see such a vibrant partnership and shared commitment to Christian education between church and school. I had several St. Michael members, most who no longer have children at the school, ask me about the school, excited to hear that it's thriving, and saying what a wonderful part of the St. Michael ministry it is. Thank you, thank you! It's a joy and blessing to serve with you all!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE SPRING MUSICAL!

Join us on Friday, March 15, as our middle school students present *Godspell Jr.* This is the story for how disciples help Jesus tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques and a hefty dose of comic timing. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, are employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Show times are 9:30a (a great time for grandparents and friends to come!) and an evening performance - TBD. Light concessions will be available for the evening show.

ESM SEEKING BASKETBALL CAMP SPONSORSHIPS

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

ST. MICHAEL FINANCIAL UPDATE

January 2024

<u>INCOME</u>	Actual	Budgeted	Actual vs budget
Offerings	\$140,253	\$131,629	\$8,624
Facility	\$40	\$1,081	\$(1,041)
Interest	\$1,972	\$1,875	\$97
Grants	\$11,850	\$11,850	\$-
Fellowship	\$130	\$50	\$80
ESM/CLHS Support	\$-	\$-	\$-
Misc.	\$-	\$-	\$-
Total Income	\$154,245	\$146,485	\$7,760
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Missions	\$699	\$1,417	\$(718)
Education	\$54,729	\$55,963	\$(1,234)
Youth & Family	\$361	\$900	\$(539)
Administrative	\$2,899	\$2,688	\$211
Pastoral Support	\$738	\$1,116	\$(378)
Worship	\$1,056	\$998	\$58
Boards & Committees	\$561	\$1,146	\$(585)
Utilities, Maintenance & Supplies	\$11,026	\$13,928	\$(2,902)
Salaries	\$45,326	\$45,943	\$(617)
Taxes and Benefits	\$14,280	\$15,901	\$(1,621)
Nursery, Gym Setup, Worship	\$300	\$650	\$(350)
Total Expenses	\$131,975	\$140,650	\$(8,675)
Net Income (Loss)	\$22,270	\$5,835	\$16,435

How to Retrieve Your Offering Statements

1. Go to <https://stmfw.fellowshiponego.com>.
2. Logon with your user name and password. If you do not know your user name and password, email tammy@stmfw.org or click on Forgot Password.
3. Click on the circle in the top right corner with your initials. You will be taken to your profile.
4. Select GIVING (Exhibit A).
5. This will display your pledges and all your offering history.
6. Select STATEMENT (Exhibit B).
7. Click on the required date filter (Exhibit C) and which transactions you want to include on your statement (ALL, tax deductible (YES), or non-tax deductible (NO)).
8. Click on DOWNLOAD at the bottom of the window.

If you have any questions or would like the church office to print you a copy, feel free to reach out to Tammy Bruns, Executive Director, at tammy@stmfw.org.

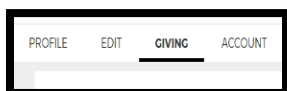


Exhibit A



Exhibit B

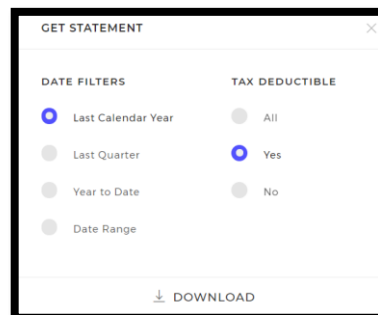


Exhibit C

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I get my 2023 Offering Statement?

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

How do I increase my online offering?

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

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

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

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

STEWARDSHIP from Christian Money Solutions

Generosity is emphasized throughout the Bible, with numerous passages encouraging believers to give cheerfully and abundantly. Adopting a consistent giving practice aligns with the biblical principles of stewardship and compassion. But let's be honest—sometimes we forget to give. So, here are six ways to become a more consistent giver:

1. Regularly pray about your generosity.

The Bible encourages believers to seek God's guidance in all aspects of life, including financial matters. Prayer establishes a connection with God, seeking His will and wisdom in how to share the resources He has entrusted to you. Proverbs 11:25 states, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

2. Pre-determine the amount you desire to give.

The Bible emphasizes the importance of intentional and planned giving. One of the key generosity principles found in the Bible is proportional, or percentage-based, giving (Malachi 3:10). Prayerfully determining the percentage, you should give will help you avoid last-minute, inconsistent generosity. This predetermined amount reflects your commitment to stewardship and understanding of God's provision in your life.

3. Pre-determine when you desire to give.

Establishing a consistent giving schedule aligns with biblical principles of order and discipline. In 1 Corinthians 16:2, the Apostle Paul advises, "On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income." Setting aside specific times for giving reinforces the biblical notion of honoring God with the first fruits of your income (Proverbs 3:9). For many, aligning their time of giving with their paycheck helps maintain consistency and reflect the first fruits principle.

4. Automate your giving.

Leverage technology to keep your giving consistent. Automating your giving through your church's website or other Kingdom-advancing non-profit platform ensures that your contributions are timely and faithful.

5. Track your generosity.

You chase what you track. Therefore, you should consider tracking your generosity. Keeping records of your giving allows you to evaluate your commitment to biblical stewardship and adjust as needed. This also allows you to celebrate what God has allowed you to do with your finances.

6. Pay attention to your generosity's impact.

The Bible is replete with stories of how generosity affects individuals and communities. Acts 20:35 reminds believers, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." By acknowledging the impact of your giving, you align with the biblical principle of selfless and joyful generosity.

Become a consistent giver. By incorporating these principles, you can cultivate a habit of consistent generosity that aligns with the teachings of Scripture and brings glory to God.

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

Everyone is invited to ask questions about financial planning, estate planning, updating your will, guardianship issues and more. Save the date! Our panel includes Estate Attorney Mark Witmer, Certified Financial Planner Chip Olson, Foundation Advisor Ron Menze, and Pastor Dennis Goff. Look for more details and registration coming soon!

LUTHERAN LAYMANS LEAGUE

Celebrate with the Indiana LLL District at their annual convention at St. Michael on **Saturday, March 16**. All are welcome to attend. Our guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of the Lutheran Hour® focusing on Energizing Mission along with Rev. Jason Taber, Outreach Pastor, Cornerstone Lutheran Church, Indianapolis Campus.

Doors open at 9:00a with the convention beginning at 9:30a and concluding with a worship service at 2:30p. The registration fee is \$20 which includes lunch.

Join us for a day of spiritual growth with inspirational presentations to encourage and equip you as partners in His mission. Complete the registration form at the Information Desk and return with your registration fee to Rick Hoffmann, Indiana LLL District President, 10510 River Birch Run, Ft. Wayne, IN 46814. If you have any questions or need more information you can contact Rick by phone: 442-4550; email: rhoffmann.sphr@gmail.com. Registration deadline is March 5. You can also register to attend here: <https://stmfw.org/register>.

ELDERS

THE ROLE OF ELDERS AT ST. MICHAEL

Rest assured that all the important functions currently performed by the elders will continue to be performed by Ministry Action Teams should the congregation adopt a new, policy-based governance model.

HOLY COMMUNION IN THE PEW

Would you like to receive Holy Communion in the pew? Please contact the church office, as we try to keep a running list for the Elders. Also, please mention your desire each Communion service to an usher or Elder.

ST. MICHAEL FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION AWARD PROPOSAL REQUESTS ARE OPEN!

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

FOR THRIVENT MEMBERS

DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE® DOLLARS

Thrivent Choice® can have a tremendous impact on St. Michael ministries. Eligible Thrivent clients with membership, please consider [directing Choice Dollars®](#) to us—you have until March 31 to designate 2023 Choice Dollars. Visit thrivent.com/generosity and click on THRIVENT CHOICE to learn more.

GOD'S BLESSINGS ON OUR MARCH ANNIVERSARIES!

God's blessings to...	Day	Years	God's blessings to...	Day	Years
Dan and Pam Green	2	28	Bob and Shelley Kaiser	18	7
Chip and Marcia Olson	4	35	Nick and Carrie Gould	20	20
Jim and Kathie Barron	6	31	Zach and Janna Harl	21	4
Tom and Dawn Buuck	6	48	Keith and Cheri Miller	21	26
Gary and Debbie Gotsch	10	45	Brad and Jennifer Chaffee	23	28
Rich and Linda Kraus	11	52	Samuel and Elizabeth Clendenen	23	11
Tony and Beth Ann Hargrove	14	4	Matthew and Amy Stewart	23	17
Ross and Samantha Fredrickson	16	11	Alex and Aliya Lebamoff	25	1
Brent and Tara Panning	16	22	Jim and Diana Sims	29	59

MARCH BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS



We will celebrate baptism birthdays on March 16/17. Please pray for Anahi Alberto; Alexander Alia; Emma Bains; Bradyn Bender; Henry Carsten; Chloe Childs; Archer Christman; Ali Davis; Branson Engle; Gavin Evans; Charlie Klein; Myles Larkin; Johnathon and Wyatt Overby; Kristian Peeper; Cameran Rush; Gavin and Blake Schroeder; James Sult; Henry Vachon; Brooks, Kroy and Tate Young.

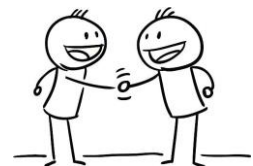
MARCH MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

We thank God for the lives of Phyllis Brockmann, 3/12, 82; Cassandra Hebermehl, 3/18, 81; Karen Werling, 3/26, 83; Darrell Jenkins, 3/29, 92; and Roger Panning, 3/30, 82. God's blessings on your birthday!

CHECK OUT OUR TOWN HALL MEETINGS!

St. Michael will be hosting town hall meetings in the coming weeks, and we invite you to be a part of the conversation. As our congregation grows, how can we continue to serve faithfully and function efficiently? A committee has been reviewing St. Michael's governance structure and wants to share how some updates could help our staff and volunteers serve the church even more effectively. Join us for one of these 60 minute sessions to learn more, ask questions, and see how we can all work together.

- **March 3** **12:00p at St. Michael in Luther Hall**
- **March 12** **6:30p online via Zoom**
- **March 16** **6:15p following Saturday night service in Luther Hall**



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!

thank you

Thank you for all the cards and prayers during my illness and hospitalization!
Sincerely, Al Claus