

# may newsletter

## St. Michael Lutheran Church

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. I (Pastor Goff) wrote about mental wellness in the March newsletter this year as an introduction to a series of classes we were offering. For the people who attended the classes, I believe the conversations were informative and encouraging. People seemed to feel comfortable sharing their own challenges as well as those they may have with family and friends. I think our overall goal was met with these classes by opening up conversation on the topic. Actually, one of the biggest reasons people are hesitant to talk about mental wellness issues is because there seems to be stigma associated with the topic. That's unfortunate. I would love for the church to be a place where we break that stigma.

I mentioned previously that when I was working at The Lutheran Foundation, one of my responsibilities was to bring awareness to the faith community about mental health. One of the ways we were doing that is by inviting each of our congregations to identify a mental health advocate. I'm pleased to report that Samantha Fredrickson (you may also know her as Annabelle and Charlotte's mom) has agreed to be St. Michael's mental health advocate. What that means is that Samantha will serve as a liaison between The Lutheran Foundation and St. Michael for resources, education, etc. related to this topic. Thank you Samantha for agreeing to be our advocate. Very soon, Samantha and I will assemble a group of people who will form an initial mental wellness team here at St. Michael.

A few years ago, a woman in our community contacted me one day after learning about The Lutheran Foundation's focus on promoting mental wellness and reducing the stigma of mental illness. She shared her family's story of how her son died by suicide several years earlier. She told me she wished she would have felt comfortable talking to people at her church about what her family was going through. She wished her church would have been a place of comfort and support for her family. I have since come to believe that the church has to be a place where we bring spiritual, physical and mental (or emotional) needs to God and to each other.

A pastor friend of one of our Lutheran congregations in Texas recently shared with me that his congregation has just launched a mental wellness center with their own counseling team. How exciting! I think you know that the Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School Board is currently interviewing candidates to serve as ESM's first school counselor to begin this summer in preparation for the 2023-2024 school year. What a difference we can make in the lives of our students and families with this resource.

*"The church has to be a place where we bring spiritual, physical and emotional needs to God and to each other."*



## mental health (continued)

For a Christian, mental illness doesn't mean a lack of faith. David, who authored over 70 of the Psalms, openly shared his own "laments." He boldly asked the Lord in Psalm 13, "How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?" And yet, in that same Psalm David was clear to express his faith saying, "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in my salvation." One Sunday morning I taught a Bible class at a local church in Fort Wayne on the Psalms of Lament including Psalm 13. One man walked out of class and said, "Every day I pray the words of Psalm 13. Every day. Those words are my life." This was not a man without faith. Rather, for this man of faith, the daily struggle with mental illness was very real for him.

The church is a place where we bring our whole selves – spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally.

## CONNECT WITH PASTOR SHAWN

### DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."* Matthew 28:19

As Jesus prepares to finish his time on earth and join his Father, he gives his disciples, and in turn us, the great commission of going and making disciples.

On May 7, we celebrate confirmation. We have 17 students who are more connected to Jesus after three years of learning (sixth, seventh, and eighth grade.) They have delved into Jesus' life and ministry in the Bible, used the small catechism as a learning tool, been through a Bible Overview, and spent time exploring the impact Jesus has on our lives. During their eighth grade year, they chose Bible verses with a personal meaning to them now, and one they can hold onto for years to come. They shared their testimony about those verses with the congregation during worship. They also spent time with elders, talking about faith and how to live it out. This leads us to Confirmation Sunday, when they will publically profess their connection into Jesus' grace and their belief that His life, death, resurrection, and ascension mean something—it connects us to the Father through the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. This month, please take a moment to pray for our confirmands.

Caroline Ruth Bartel	Psalms 119:105	Ashlyn Reiter	John 10:27-28
Jack Benner	John 1:1-5	Nolan Roehm	Psalms 51:10
Savannah Bostwick	Philippians 4:8	Brenya Scott	1 Corinthians 13:4-8
Benjamin Fowls, Jr.	Psalms 27:14	DJ Scott	Psalms 7:1
Naomi Hendrickson	Isaiah 40:31	Jordyn Setser	Matthew 6:6
Aaron Lyttle	Isaiah 41:10	Gracelyn Sprunger	Joshua 1:9
Aaron McDonald	Romans 14:8	Kain Sprunger	John 3:16
Reid McDonald	Romans 5:8	Caroline Stamm	Psalms 119:105
Matteo Passoni	Psalms 119:37		

### GO AND SERVE

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the Go and Serve Saturday. It was a blessing to be Jesus' hands and feet to the world around us.



**BELONG BECOME BLESS**

## NEW JULY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!

What: Back to School Clinic in Luther Hall

- Super shots clinic
- Kindergarten eye screening
- Middle School sports physicals
- Parent resources

When: July 24 from 9:00a-12:00p | July 25 and 26 from 4:00p-7:00p

Needed: Medically-trained personnel, hospitality, set up and tear down

Contact: Pastor Shawn



## SHEPHERD'S HAND CENTER

Annual 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, May 13 from 9:00a-11:00a



On May 13 at 9:00a, enjoy a 5K fun run/walk to support our partner in ministry, Shepherd's Hand. We would love to have a fun and engaged group of runners/walkers and friends show up to support! If you'd like to join our cheering section, please contact Celine Newman for details. Sign up to officially participate with the QR code.

## SIGN UP TODAY! SPRING BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, May 6 in Luther Hall

8:00a-1:00p

All donors will receive a \$10 ecard!

Use the QR code or sign up at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) with the code `stmichfw`.



## REDEMPTION HOUSE

Sunday, May 21

Meal for the month at Wayne Street Location

Please contact Linda Chapman at 417-3052 if you are able to contribute to the meal.



## THE ST. MICHAEL GREEN TEAM NEEDS YOU!

Do you enjoy weeding, trimming and watering God's amazing creation? Join us on Wednesday, May 3 at 9:00a to maintain our beautiful grounds. Contact Julie Rohrbach at 409-0427.

## VBS DECORATING DATES

Saturday, May 29

Friday, June 2

Please join us from 10:00a to 12:00p in Luther Hall!



## VBS VOLUNTEER NEEDS

We welcome all adults and students entering grade 6 and up as volunteers! However, all volunteers should be committed to improving our participants' relationship with and understanding of God by being an active, enthusiastic, and engaging leader!

# NEWS FROM STEPHANIE

## Music Musings

What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. **Matthew 18:12-14**

What a wonderful reminder from God that He cares about us! *Each one of us* is so **valued**, that He would leave to go look for us! In fact.....He did leave.....He left heaven to come down to earth.....to look for us; to talk to us; to die for us. Why? Because He *doesn't want any* of us to perish. I am so thankful that I am one of Jesus' little lambs!

*I am Jesus little lamb, ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me,  
Knows my need and well provides me,  
Loves me every day the same,  
Even calls me by my name!*

### Saturday Band Line-up

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

## MUSIC NEWS

### Summer Music Intern

St. Michael is excited to introduce **Owen Kaiser** as our new summer music intern! Owen is a familiar face to many of us since he grew up attending St. Michael and we have enjoyed listening to him play French Horn, Trumpet, Viola, Keyboard and percussion. Owen recently finished his second year at Concordia University Chicago where he is studying music. Owen will be on staff as an intern from mid-May to mid-August and will assist with ensembles and worship planning as he learns from the day-to-day experiences of working in a church. **Thank you to the St. Michael Foundation for partially funding this internship.** Welcome Owen!

## SMLC ACADEMY NEWS

**Our Spring Recital is Sunday, May 7 at 3:00p. Congratulations to our students who have worked hard this year!**

**Summer lessons** are available!!! If you would like to continue/begin lessons, there are spots available. Many of our teachers will be continuing lessons through the summer, so it is not too late to sign up! You can register at <https://academy.stmfw.org/>.

## SUNDAY SUMMER INSTRUMENTALISTS AND SOLOISTS

St. Michael has been blessed to continue to offer special music in our services through the summer. If you are interested in sharing your musical gifts by singing/playing a solo or with a small group during our Sunday worship services, please contact our worship director, Stephanie Maxson at [stephanie@stmfw.org](mailto:stephanie@stmfw.org). To God be the Glory as we praise His name!

## CHOIR REHEARSALS CONTINUE THROUGH WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

We would love to have you join choir as we prepare for music we will sing over the summer. The (SATB) Adult Choir will meet weekly on Wednesday's from 7:00p-8:00p in the sanctuary through May 24. The Women's Choir (SSAA) will meet at 6:30p on Wednesday May 10/24. The Men's Choir (TTBB) will meet at 6:30p on Wednesday May 3, and May 17.

**Thank You!**

## MUSIC LEADERS ATTEND EXPERIENCE CONFERENCE

This September, St. Michael will send a group of music leaders to the Experience Conference for training, team building, networking, and strategic planning. Thank you to the St. Michael Foundation for helping to fund this important investment in our leaders!



## FAMILY MINISTRY FROM CARRIE

Thank you to everyone who donated candy for our Palm Sunday Easter event on April 2nd. The children were in awe of the candy buffet and were very appreciative of the sweet treats! We read He is Risen: Rocks Tell the Story of Easter and watched a stop action animation film of the author, Patti Rokus, creating the story with rocks. If you have a chance, I encourage you to check the book out from your local library and watch some of her work on her YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/PattiRokus> . Here's the one we watched, and it is very powerful! <https://youtu.be/pfNNYmOogRo>



She ends her book asking this question: How can you show your love for Jesus today? The children pondered and answered that question by painting two rocks: one that reminds them of Jesus or represents His love for them, and one to share with someone else or hide around town showing Jesus' love for others.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS JUNE 26-30 FROM 9:00A TO 12:00P!



Thank you for donating a plethora of yarn and cardboard for VBS! We have more than enough to supply our needs in that department, so if you'd still like to help out, please sign up to volunteer [here](#) or check out our [wish list](#) for the other items we need! As VBS draws closer, we will be adding snack items to our wish list so be sure to check it often! Thank you for your continued support of our family and children's ministries!

You can now register your child for VBS by visiting [stmfw.org/events](http://stmfw.org/events) and clicking on the VBS banner. Children who are entering preschool through those who will be entering 5th grade are welcome to register as participants. Children going in 6th grade-high school can register as volunteers if they are responsible, take direction well, can be enthusiastic and energetic, and have a desire to help strengthen our attendees' relationships with God. Many of our young helpers are placed as group leading assistants and it is very important that they help keep our attendees focused and engaged while taking directions and following the instructions of our adult group leaders. If you're unsure of whether or not a VBS volunteer role is the right place for your child, please reach out to Carrie at [carrie@stmfw.org](mailto:carrie@stmfw.org)!

## OUR LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL IS MAY 21!

Please join me in showing your appreciation to our Sunday school teachers, our music leaders, and Dean in the sound booth by thanking them when you see them at church! They put so much time and energy into helping grow the faith of the children at St. Michael and we are so very blessed by them!



BELONG BECOME BLESS

## ESM CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Ms. Johannah Lyn Miesner has accepted our call to serve as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher.
- Mrs. Jen Ackmann has completed the colloquy process and accepted the call to serve as Assistant Principal Preschool.
- Mrs. Kim Faley has accepted the call to serve as 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher.
- Mrs. Stephanie Mueller has accepted the call to serve as K teacher.
- Ms. Melissa Greener has also accepted our call to serve as Assistant Principal at the Union Street Campus.
- We will continue the call and search process for Shepherd of the School; School Counselor; and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Homeroom Teacher.

What an exciting time as we now pray humbly and confidently that God leads us to the right people to join the team! The faculty and staff remain committed to providing excellent, Christ-centered education to all our students and families. We cherish your prayers and support as we look forward to the good and more that God has in store for ESM!

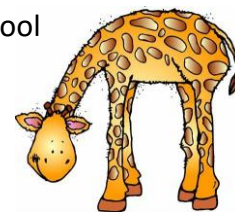


## ENROLL IN ESM PRESCHOOL NOW!

At Emmanuel-St. Michael Preschool, children play, learn, and actively explore God's world under the guidance of caring, dedicated teachers who daily model and teach Christian values. A positive start to school begins with a strong partnership between parents and teachers. At ESM, we value that partnership providing *education for life and faith for eternity*. If you are interested in learning more about ESM's preschool programs (offered at both of ESM's campuses) please contact Jennifer Ackmann at 459-1616 or [jackmann@esmeagles.com](mailto:jackmann@esmeagles.com); or visit ESM's website at [esmeagles.com/earlychildhood](http://esmeagles.com/earlychildhood).

## ESM Preschool May Highlights and Fun!

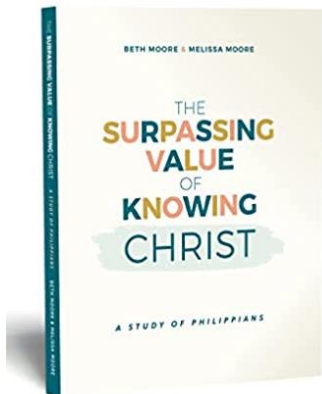
- Ft. Wayne Philharmonic musicians visit Preschoolers at the Union Campus
- All PreK 4/5s classes take a field trip to ESM Kindergarten
- Life Science in Preschool is exciting and engaging, and provides opportunities to learn about God's wonderful world! All preschool classes are planting seeds and learning about what they need to grow. Students are also observing real caterpillars as they learn about the life cycle of a butterfly. As this metamorphosis occurs, preschoolers will release the butterflies in May!
- Getz Campus Preschoolers are watching seedlings emerge in the garden in the Outdoor Learning Space
- Preschoolers at both campuses will take part in a fun Field Day - Thank you Mrs. Weerts for planning this exciting day!
- Special preschool closing celebrations and chapel services will take place at both campuses during the last week of school
- The annual Preschool Family Zoo Field Trip is scheduled for the last day of school



# BECOME

## WOMEN'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

What kind of mindset makes a person like Paul: unstoppable in love, faith and good works even in a steady flow of frustration, conflict and opposition? What keeps a person from becoming cynical when people are notoriously exploiting the gospel and preaching Christ out of selfish ambition?



Paul's brief letter to the saints in Philippi may well capture the mindset that set him apart like no other piece of correspondence from his pen. The book of Philippians is exhortation driven by unabashed affection, inviting the reader to join in imitating his joyful, single-minded pursuit of Jesus.

Women of all ages are invited to join us for a 5-session study on Philippians based on *The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ* by Beth and Melissa Moore.

- There will be two in-person groups (1:00p-2:45p and 6:30p-8:15p).
- We will meet every other Thursday from June 1 through July 27.
- The cost of the book is \$23.
- Email [tammy@stmfw.org](mailto:tammy@stmfw.org) if you have any questions or register by May 22 at [stmfw.org/events](http://stmfw.org/events).

# BELONG

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

Thursday, May 11 - **GUEST SPEAKER** at 12:00p

Lunch will be provided. Charge for the event is \$5.00. Pre-register by calling Penny Pequignot at 580-8730 by May 4.

Join us the first and third Tuesdays for Bible study in Luther Hall at 1:00p! Emma Deines is leading the group on Tuesday, May 2!

## PRAYING FOR OUR NATION—May 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](mailto:charrison75@comcast.net)).

## PURLS—May 2/16



This fun group meets from 1:00p-3:00p on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Everyone who knits, crochets or wants to learn is welcome to join! The St. Michael PURLS knit and crochet shawls that are available to give to a person who is ill, suffering a loss, or in the midst of a life crisis. A supply of shawls is available in the lobby for members to take and present to someone in need. Direct your questions to Pat Armstrong through the church office.

# BELONG

## LWML

Plans are in the works for the National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 21-25. Indiana District has a bus reserved to pick us up in Fort Wayne, deliver us to the convention and bring us home. The cost of the bus is \$150, so if you want to reserve a spot, let Linda Chapman (417-3052) know as soon as possible. Online registration for the convention itself is now available at <https://www.lwml.org/2023-convention>.



## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST—May 20 in the Gym

All men are invited to attend this group to share in breakfast, devotion, and prayer. We meet at 8:00a on the third Saturday of each month. For more information, contact Dennis Brink at 238-4046 or [Dennis.Brink@att.net](mailto:Dennis.Brink@att.net).

## BOOK CLUB—Thursday, May 18, at 10:00a

Book club will meet the third Thursday of the month in the conference room. Join this fun group and discuss *Drawn by the Current* by Jocelyn Green.

## ST. MICHAEL RUNS!

Join in some group runs starting at Lutheran Health Trail Center (7171 Engle Rd) at 2:00p on Sunday afternoons!

## CONNECT MEALS ON THE 3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH



It was great to begin forming connections this past month. Are you looking for some connection? Come and join us for a meal at a local restaurant after the service on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The next one will be May 20. Contact Celine Newman if you are planning on joining or for further details.

## GAP MINISTRY—May 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.

## DISCIPLESHIP FOUNDATIONS CLASS—Sunday, May 7/14/21

9:30a-10:30a

This class is designed for anyone seeking connection and involvement in St. Michael ministries, including those who are transferring membership or joining us as a new LCMS member. We will dive into how St. Michael seeks to be a place where we are *Becoming Like Jesus, Belonging to His People, and Blessing His World*. Contact the office at 432-2033 with questions or to sign up for the class.

## ST. MICHAEL AT THE TINCAPS

Tuesday, June 13 at 7:00p

Take your family out to the ballgame! Tickets are \$13. Enjoy select concessions for just \$2. Register at [stmfw.org/events](http://stmfw.org/events), or fill out a form at the Information Desk. Call Diana Sims at 433-2063 with questions.





# YOUTH WITH EMMA

## CHECK-IN WITH DCE INTERN EMMA!

I have officially entered the 2nd quarter of internship! Over the next few months, I will continue to work and build relationships with elementary, confirmation, and high school students. I will also begin to branch out in some new teaching areas with the J.O.Y group. Also, part of the internship process is sitting down and getting to know families and individuals. This can be over a meal or coffee. If you are interested, email me at [emma@stmfw.org](mailto:emma@stmfw.org) or text/call (636)-542-2876.

It has been a fantastic experience here at St. Michael! As I continue to grow as a leader, I look forward to all that is ahead in the future.



## YOUTH NIGHT—May 21

These evenings are always a great time to hang out with other youth and spend time in God's Word! Middle school meets at 4:00p and High School meets at 6:00p.

**8th Grade/Confirmation you are invited to join the High School Youth Night at 6:00p!**

## HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION—May 14

Do you have or know a high school Senior who is graduating this year? On the weekend of May 14, St. Michael will be recognizing and praying for any and all high school seniors.

## FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHT—May 17 from 6:00p-8:00p

High School Youth had a blast last month at Electric Works! There were intense games of UNO and Spoons and amazing food with great fellowship! Keep your calendars open and join us again at Electric Works on May 17!

# CLHS

## JOIN US FOR GREAT SUMMER CAMPS FOR ALL AGES

Come and join Concordia this year for our many Camps! We have something for all interests and all ages (K-12). Check us out now! Please note the change in date for our Rocket Science Camp. We also offer Summer Classes for students in grades 8-12 during the 2022-23 school year. Click to learn more and to register: <https://www.clhscadets.com/summer>.

## REGISTER FOR THE AJ ARNETT 5K HONOR RUN

Join us for the AJ Arnett 5K Honor Run at 8:30a, May 20 at the high school. Kids in K-8 run free! The run is organized by JROTC students and will benefit Honor Flight of Northeast Indiana, Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, and Shepherd's House Fort Wayne. Pet and stroller friendly. Over the last 6 years we have been able to donate over \$86,000 to Honor Flights of Northeast Indiana and Shepherd's House. Our goal is to raise even more for our worthy Veterans than we did last year. The race is named in honor of SPC A.J. Arnett, a 2004 Concordia graduate, who while in the U.S. Army was seriously wounded in a car bomb attack that resulted in the death of one soldier and seriously wounding another soldier in his squad. Suffering shrapnel and blast wounds to his leg, A.J. underwent multiple surgeries to repair the extensive damage to his leg. At one point, he was told that he would never run again, but A.J. persevered and continues to run multiple long-distance events. All are welcome! Register now at [www.ajarnetthonorrun.com](http://www.ajarnetthonorrun.com).

# ST. MICHAEL FINANCIAL UPDATE

March 2023


<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual vs budget</b>
Offerings	\$419,021	\$414,725	\$4,296
Facility	\$1,775	\$3,125	\$(1,350)
Interest	\$3,882	\$1,750	\$2,132
Grants	\$-	\$7,566	\$(7,566)
Fellowship	\$561	\$-	\$561
ESM/CLHS Support	\$40	\$-	\$40
Misc.	\$410	\$-	\$410
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$425,689</b>	<b>\$427,166</b>	<b>\$(1,477)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Missions	\$3,159	\$5,142	\$(1,983)
Education	\$164,187	\$164,187	\$-
Youth & Family	\$1,389	\$4,325	\$(2,936)
Administrative	\$8,995	\$10,187	\$(1,192)
Pastoral Support	\$1,016	\$2,611	\$(1,595)
Worship	\$4,715	\$4,405	\$310
Boards & Committees	\$2,972	\$4,188	\$(1,216)
Utilities, Maintenance & Supplies	\$50,050	\$45,247	\$4,803
Salaries	\$126,639	\$133,011	\$(6,372)
Taxes and Benefits	\$41,785	\$43,795	\$(2,010)
Nursery, Gym Setup, Worship	\$2,200	\$2,183	\$17
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$407,107</b>	<b>\$419,281</b>	<b>\$(12,174)</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$18,582</b>	<b>\$7,885</b>	<b>\$10,697</b>

## FAMILY MINISTRY COORDINATOR

St. Michael is looking for a part-time Family Ministry Coordinator to work five to ten hours per week. This important position helps connect families with young children (newborn to 5th grade) to Jesus and to others through Sunday School, VBS, and family events. If you are interested in applying or finding out more about the position, email Tammy Bruns at [tammy@stmfw.org](mailto:tammy@stmfw.org) for a complete job description and application. Applications must be submitted by May 15, 2023.

## ONLINE DIRECTORY

Did you know that St. Michael has an online directory for members? It is called Fellowship One Go. You can download an app to your phone or access it through a browser.

<b>app</b>	<b>browser</b>
 <p>search google play or apple store for fellowship one go and download</p> <p>domain: <a href="http://stmfw.fellowshiponego.com">stmfw.fellowshiponego.com</a></p> <p>user ID / password – if you don't know it, email <a href="mailto:tammy@stmfw.org">tammy@stmfw.org</a></p>	<p><a href="http://Stmfw.fellowshiponego.com">Stmfw.fellowshiponego.com</a></p> <p>domain: <a href="http://stmfw">stmfw</a></p> <p>user ID / password – if you don't know it, email <a href="mailto:tammy@stmfw.org">tammy@stmfw.org</a></p>

Once logged in, you can view your profile, look up member phone numbers and addresses, view your offering history, and print your statements.

If you have any questions or need help setting it up, contact Tammy Bruns at 432-2033 or email [tammy@stmfw.org](mailto:tammy@stmfw.org).

Please note that offering statements were emailed on January 12. If you can't find it, check out the instructions in [January's newsletter](#) (page 12) or email [jmlee3@gmail.com](mailto:jmlee3@gmail.com).

**BELONG BECOME BLESS**

## CAN YOU BE RICH AND BE A CHRISTIAN

By John Rinehart, founder of Gospel Patrons

When I was a kid I wanted to be a professional baseball player and be rich. I think most of us desire to be rich. Just today my Lyft driver told me how he wanted to be the first millionaire in his family. But what does God say about this?

### The Driving Force

The Bible mentions plenty of wealthy people, some who followed God and others who didn't. But only one of them was called to sell everything he had and give it to the poor.

Deep down, many of us wonder if God loves the poor more than the rich. We wonder if somehow it's more spiritual to be poor. Others of us see financial prosperity as a sign of God's blessing. We assume it's more spiritual to be rich.

**What Jesus clearly said was, "No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." Luke 16:13**

I have often read this verse as "You *should not* serve God and money." In other words, it's bad. But now I see it as: "You cannot serve God and money because it's impossible."

It's possible to be religious and put money first in your life. But Jesus says it is not possible to be a lover of God and a lover of money. These two things war against each other and each of us must decide between them. We must choose who or what will be the Lord of our lives. Who or what will be the driving force: God or money?

### The Dangerous Byproduct

The current of our world pulls us in the direction of the love of money but it's Scripture that paints a picture of where that river ends.

"Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." 1 Timothy 6:9-10

Am I arguing that money is bad and all Christians should be poor? No. It's not bad to be rich, but being rich is a bad goal.

### A Higher Goal

Instead of desiring to be rich, we should set our course toward a higher goal, toward better riches. God's word actually invites us, "to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share..." 1 Timothy 6:18

Whether you ever have great wealth or not, you have the opportunity to be rich in good works. Your life could abound with the kind of fruitfulness that's described as thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold. When we make serving God and others our greatest goal, we will become rich with true riches, the kind that really matter in the end, and we discover the life that is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:19

What would it look like for you to repent of your desire to be rich? To turn from the goal of storing up treasure for yourself? Securing yourself? To lay it down again. Today you could align with God's word and decide that your greatest ambition is to be rich in good works. You could make it your holy passion to excel at advancing God's kingdom. You could pray something like this:

"Lord, I surrender my life, my influence, and my wealth to you. Use me to introduce people to Jesus and bring your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Guard me from the love of money and the love of this world so that my life will be aimed at eternity. In Jesus' name. Amen."

# ELDERS

## WHO IS YOUR ELDER?

You are encouraged to contact your elder any time you feel a spiritual need or concern! While members get assigned a particular elder, you are always free to connect with any elder. If you want to know who your assigned elder 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**

**Bob Kaiser**

**bobrkaiser@live.com**

**Harry Jones**

**hmejones71@aol.com**

**John Hein**

**JHein@brotherhoodmutual.com**

**John Hendrickson**

**jlh1051@gmail.com**

**Keith Miller**

**keithcherimiller@frontier.com**

**Mark Muntzinger**

**mark@marksbodyshopincftw.com**

**Michael Kuhn**

**mdkuhn8214@gmail.com**

**Nathan Nix**

**nathananix@gmail.com**

**Paul Selking**

**pselking1@gmail.com**

**Zach Evans**

**zdevans@hotmail.com**

**Tom Latin**

**thomasjlatin@hotmail.com**

**Jeremy Allyn**

**energymanallyn@gmail.com**

**Bob Cole**

**bob51cole@aol.com**

We are pleased that Paul Selking, Mark Muntzinger and Nathan Nix are renewing their elder terms. We welcome Al Claus and Steve Manges as new elders! And we thank Harry Jones, Bob Kaiser, Zach Evans and Tom Latin for their years of service. You are all a blessing to St. Michael!

# ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Awards this year were based on our deposited fund value on March 31, 2023. Our total investment is \$426,726. Funds are deposited in Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing, Minneapolis, MN. Only a portion of the endowment is spent with the principle growing and providing a permanent source of income to support St. Michael ministries. This year, 4.25% of qualified funds were awarded based on member requests.

***This year \$17,441 is awarded to the following:***

Education Support of ESM and CLHS .....	\$3,577	Shew Fund
Strategic Planning Consultant .....	\$3,500	
Music Summer Intern .....	\$1,500	
ESM Preschool Outdoor Supplies .....	\$1,500	
Vacation Bible School Support.....	\$1,349	VBS Fund
Worship Leaders Conference.....	\$1,191	
Charlie McLain Seminary Support .....	\$1,000	
Service Week in Fort Wayne .....	\$1,000	Youth Mission Fund
Back to School Clinic .....	\$1,000	Bruns Mission Fund
St. Michael Life Team.....	\$514	Life Team Fund
Inflatable Stories Event .....	\$508	
Education Support of ESM and CLHS .....	\$441	Braun Fund
Worship Leaders Conference.....	\$309	Music Fund
Academy of the Arts .....	\$132	Music Fund

*The Foundation is supported by your cash gifts, securities, memorials, bequests and life insurance. **\$150,946 has been awarded in the last 17 years.** Contact the church office or Ron Menze for additional information.*



**ST. MICHAEL MISSION**

Connecting People to Jesus!

## OUR MANDATE

“I appeal to you, by the mercies of God...  
be transformed.” Romans 12:1-2

## OUR MOTIVES

We are to be Christ Centered, Discipleship Directed, Family Focused and Mission Minded

**BELONG BECOME BLESS**

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

God's blessings to...	Day	Years	God's blessings to...	Day	Years
Mark and Krista King	3	5	David and Christine Harrison	20	40
Dan and Angie Rich	3	15	Eric and Janet Olson	21	31
John and Gloria Ribar	4	38	Brian and Colleen Wielosinski	21	18
Mark and Doreen Muntzinger	5	39	Dave and Meikka Bilos	22	24
Logan and Amanda Fillmore	6	6	David and Marybeth Bienz	23	42
Joe and Pat Heiny	9	42	Dave and Diane Jackson	23	53
Todd and Angela Sult	9	14	Gordon and Julie Kistler	23	31
Brian and Jill Bowman	10	15	Ryan and Pam Meyer	23	31
Shawn and Jessica McLain	11	27	Zachary and Jill Dougal	24	15
Sean and Christina Powell	11	27	Corey and Meghan Jackson	24	9
Dave and Sheryl Krieg	12	33	Curtis and Heather Setser	24	26
Joel and Lora Esslinger	15	47	Bob and Jeanette Zinn	24	54
Curt and Amy Wills	15	30	Jeremy and Barbara Allyn	25	20
Richard and Cyndy Bagan	16	36	Al and Karen Henkel	27	51
Denny and Diane Hilgemann	16	36	Benjamin and Dorie Fowls	28	18
Robert and Jo Schaab	16	53	Bryce and Abby McCoy	28	1
Thomas and Holly Bauman	19	50	Dave and Andrea Tarbet	29	30
Chad and Erin Loggins	19	22	Dan and Amanda Campbell	30	14
Daniel and Susan Tarbet	19	39	Jeff and Julie Crum	30	23
Tim and Marilyn Crum	20	51	Kyle and Kayla Engle	31	4
Steve and Karen Manges	20	46	Joshua and Aimee Stir	31	20
Brian and Melanie North	20	23	Berry and Chris Weaver	31	26
Dan and Bivian Ann Oldsen	20	51			

## MAY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

We will celebrate baptism birthdays on May 20/21. God's blessings to Alivia Bruckner; Karis Bornheimer; Logan Fable; Cora Gould; Keith Hahn; Will Sappenfield Urban; Maggie Rich; Hunter and Selene Fulcher; Donovan and Avery Cannon; Ava Daseler; and Bradley Sorlie.



## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

### SUMMER HOURS BEGIN SUNDAY, MAY 28!

Saturday Worship

**5:00p**

Sunday Worship

**8:00a**

**10:00a** ←



**BELONG BECOME BLESS**