



OCTOBER

st. michael newsletter

CONNECT WITH PASTOR GOFF

Prior to my call from St. Michael, I worked at The Lutheran Foundation where I stayed in pretty close contact with most of the Lutheran churches in northeast Indiana (91 of them). Most of my contact was either by visiting pastors, looking at church information online, or most often by reviewing grant applications churches submitted. I remember reading the grant application from St. Michael to call a Missional Pastor and thinking it was creative and innovative. Consequently, I got to know Pastor Shawn in his role as Missional Pastor, even before I came here.

When I accepted the senior pastor call here to St. Michael, one of my early conversations with Pastor Shawn involved reengaging his “Missional Pastor” role. With that in mind, we started conversations with the elders earlier this year. In our conversations there were always two primary areas of focus. One, how can we fulfill the original intention of the congregation in calling a “Missional Pastor”? Second, how has God uniquely gifted Pastor Shawn for ministry? What ministry passion has God placed on his heart? What are focus areas he has already tried to develop and maintain?

In all of our conversations with Pastor Shawn, it has been very clear that he has a heart for young adults. He can share the statistics on the percentage of young adults who, for one reason or another, have disengaged or never been engaged with the church. And for many of those who have disengaged, it’s not that they have lost their faith, and it’s not that they don’t want to be connected to a faith community. It just may be there is a disconnect for them with the traditional church. If that’s the case, what do we do?

Pastor Shawn believes that often times connections with young adults happen in a “third space” setting. What is that? One example of a “third space” you will hear him talk about is Electric Works (EW), where on any given day or evening you will often find many young adults (and older adults) engaging in conversations; connecting on a number of levels. And it’s not uncommon that in some of those connections and conversations, the topics of faith and life come up. This is a reminder to us that being involved in “missions” can be closer to us than we think.

In fulfillment of St. Michael’s original “call” to Pastor Shawn, and in an effort for our church to maximize on his gifts and ministry heart, I am supportive of him reengaging in a more “missional” focus beginning in the new year. He will still be in the preaching rotation, still connecting our congregation to our “ministry partners” including Redemption House, Shepherd’s Hand, Camp Lutherhaven, and more. But his primary focus and concentration will be to connect, or reconnect, young adults with Jesus.

In his early years here at St. Michael, Pastor Shawn’s ministry was called “The Bridge.” Aptly titled, his efforts were to be a bridge to connect young adults to Jesus, and to a faith community. That same title, “The Bridge,” is what we are calling his renewed efforts. The ministry direction of The Bridge may look different, but the purpose is still the same.

Interestingly, as Pastor Shawn and I have talked with a few of our fellow Lutheran pastors in the area about young adults, they have affirmed the need for this kind of ministry focus. Some of them would like their church to be involved with what he will be doing. Therefore, we are exploring those possibilities.

In an effort to talk through an intentional ministry focus on young adults, I have had several conversations with a number of ministry friends locally and around the country. Almost all of those conversations have ended with, “Wow. St. Michael sure is innovative. No one else in our Lutheran circles seem to be giving that kind of attention to young adults today.” I share that with you to say that I think we can feel blessed that God is bringing this together once again. St. Michael is a congregation who sees the importance of missions enough to call a “missional” pastor. Pastor Shawn is a pastor who has a heart to be a missionary to young adults. What an opportunity we have to carry out our mission of connecting people to Jesus and others.

Pastor Goff

CONNECT WITH PASTOR SHAWN

The need for specific Young Adult specialization is evident as we look at the statistical data from sources like the US Census, Barna, Springtide, and congregational records. We know that 28% of the population living in Fort Wayne is between the ages of 25-44. Of that population, only 10% hold a religious conviction that takes them to church throughout the year. At St. Michael we are seeing those statistics play out as we look at the young adults who regularly attend worship and even less young adults who are engaged in activities outside of worship.

In 2017, I received a call from Concordia Seminary to become the Missional Pastor at St. Michael Lutheran Church to work with Acts 1:8 ministries and connect to young adults within the congregation. At that time, "The Bridge" was formed as a community within the church to fellowship, serve, and worship together. Due to the events leading up mid-2020, including the global pandemic and the departure of our Senior Pastor, the ministry was unable to continue and my role shifted into a concentration on other ministry areas.

As we fast forward to today: Pastor Goff, the Elders and I have been in conversations to dream out a new iteration of the Bridge ministry...to connect with Young Adults within our congregation and in our community. We've discussed realigning my current responsibilities to my original call as the Missional Pastor. Within our conversations it is evident that St. Michael is not alone in the struggles of connecting with Young Adults as we began to share this ministry dream with Emmanuel and other congregations. As the conversations have grown, a new title, the Bridge Missionary, was born in order to help better articulate the role and ministry to Young Adults that goes beyond the walls of the churches and into the community to connect people to Jesus.

As we look at the Bridge ministry moving forward my main role as the Missional Pastor (Bridge Missionary) will be:

Create opportunities to have authentic conversations with Young Adults that lead to spiritual growth.

Resource St. Michael and other churches to strengthen their Young Adult ministry.

Concentrate on being in the community in Bible Studies and connect groups

Work towards helping Young Adults lead Young Adults.

Help Fort Wayne churches see continued value and ways to contribute to the Holy Spirits work and Kingdom Growth in our community.

The goal is to see Young Adults at St. Michael and throughout the city get connected to Jesus and others as they navigate the intersections of faith and life.

**In Isaiah 43, we read: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."**

I am excited to see what new thing God is doing through St. Michael and the Bridge ministry.

Pastor Shawn

DCE INTERN UPDATE FROM PASTOR SHAWN

Many of you know that St. Michael's has been on a quest to acquire a DCE Intern since 2021. At the April congregational meeting in 2022, the congregation voted to go forward with a plan to apply to Concordia University Nebraska for a DCE Intern to work with our middle and high school youth programs. We were extremely blessed to receive Emma Deines in January of 2023.

Emma joined the St. Michael team and has spent many months transitioning from student to full-time youth worker, reviewing and updating our confirmation program, and leading middle and high school youth in a variety of settings. As we approach the last few months of the year, many people have asked... what's next for our youth and Emma? That's a great question!

St. Michael is seeking discernment on God's will for our youth ministry as we approach the end of Emma's internship. We have created a DCE Call Committee including Pastor Shawn, Pastor Goff, Celine Newman, Bethany Andrews, Lisa Shaeffer, Rhonda Patterson, BethAnn Hargrove, DeeDee Beights, Nathan Nix, and Paul Selking.

The Call Committee looked at the DCE/Director of Youth Ministry job description that was created in December, 2019 by a previous DCE Call Committee, and the DCE Intern job description. We have updated the Director of Youth Ministry job description to more accurately speak to the needs of youth ministry at St. Michael today. The Call Committee will then be exploring the growth potential and needs of our current youth ministry. With all this information in hand, a recommendation will be made to the Elders whether to extend a Call to Emma for the youth ministry role. Once complete, we will present it to the congregation at the November congregational meeting for an official vote.

We continue to pray that God's will for the St. Michael youth is clear. If you have questions, direct them to Pastor Shawn or Pastor Goff. Keep Emma, our call committee and our youth in your prayers!

BLESSING HIS WORLD

GET TO KNOW LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF INDIANA (LSSI)



Did you know that **Balance Works** delivers high quality, trauma-focused, client-centered care to individuals and families as they move toward social, emotional, and spiritual wholeness? They provide tangible tools, resources and education as they help clients learn new coping skills and behavior responses. Their approach allows clients to thrive and heal in the manner that fosters hope, stability and resiliency. St. Michael is excited to support LSSI!

TRUNKS NEEDED AT SHEPHERD'S HAND

October 28, 10:00a-1:00p

Are you able to set-up a trunk for this fun Shepherd's Hand event? This is a great opportunity to be a part of helping Shepherd's Hand reach out in the city of Fort Wayne, especially if you are providing a trunk for St. Michael's FALL FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL later that evening. With questions, contact Susan Hein at heinsd01@frontier.com.

BLESSING HIS WORLD



Go and Serve | Sign Up Today! November 4 at St. Michael from 9:00a-11:00a

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 As we look at serving the world around us and being witnesses to Christ’s compassion, we have three unique opportunities to *Bless His World* as we gather at St. Michael on November 4.



Blessing The World | Globally

Project 216 | Packing Meals

Signup at stmfw.org/goandserve

Project 216 is a non-profit humanitarian food aid organization with the mission to show God’s love by empowering our community to provide highly nutritious food to people suffering from hunger around the world. Our meals are packaged by local volunteers and delivered to those in need with the help of worldwide partners. We need a minimum of 50 volunteers.



Blessing the World | Nationally

Red Cross | Blood Drive - Sponsored by the Clendenen family

Sign up at stmfw.org and click on the banner (or redcross.org or call 1-800-red-cross)



Blessing the World | Locally

Super Shots Flu Clinic (other adult immunizations available)

No appointment necessary, located in the St. Michael Conference Room

REDEMPTION HOUSE

Redemption House residents are seeking to redeem their lives from past destructive behavior by developing a faith-based lifestyle. We will provide a meal at Wayne Street on November 5 and Fairfield Avenue on October 15/November 12. Contact Candi Luchnenko to provide a dish at 422-2061.

LWML FALL EVENT AT ST. MICHAEL!

The Lutheran Women in Mission North Zone Fall Event will be **Saturday, October 14, from 8:30a-12:00p**, right here at St. Michael. The theme is "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). Adrienne Bolinger, from the **Comfort Dog Ministry** will be our guest speaker. Registration and breakfast cost is \$6.00. An offering will be collected for the Comfort Dog Ministry. Reserve your spot with the church office or Linda Chapman at 417-3052 by Monday, October 9.



LWML MITE COLLECTION—October 14/15

These offerings are used for grants, locally, nationally and internationally. In the past 80 years, a total of \$28.9 million has been granted to missions in 83 different countries. God is using us to spread His word and love. Please either give cash or write a check out to the church with “Mite Collection” in the memo. Thank you!

NEWS FROM STEPHANIE

In the beginning, God *created* the heavens and the earth. *Genesis 1:1*

The first words in scripture tell us God is **Creator**. The first thing God did was **create**. He also **created** us in His image. Which means.....God created us to create! WOW! This morning our interior team used their creative gifts to decorate inside and out for the season of fall. They included Ecclesiastes 3:1; God **created** the seasons for us to enjoy! In 1908, composer Henry van Dyke, wrote hymn lyrics (see below) to fit Beethoven's *Hymn of Joy*. How creative!!!! What beautiful imagery of praise!

*Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of Love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the louds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

CREATIVE RETREAT—October 21/22

St. Michael and United Adoration are partnering together to offer a Creative Retreat to encourage and celebrate the gift of creativity! What will we do? Create! Maybe doodle, maybe journal, maybe draw, maybe sing, maybe appreciate a melody or piece of art. This retreat is for adults. You do not need to be a published composer or artist to come; the idea is to be encouraged and inspired to be creative with the gifts God has given you! I would love to have you join us! Cost for the retreat is \$49 and includes Friday Dinner, Saturday Breakfast and Saturday Lunch. Use this [link](#) to register- and feel free to share the info.



REFORMATION ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS

Calling all instrumentalists! If you play woodwind, brass, strings, or percussion we would love to have you join us for rehearsals as we prepare to lead worship for 10:45a service on October 29—Reformation Day!

We will rehearse from 6:30-7:15p on Thursday, October 5, 12, and 19 and 7:00-7:40p on Wednesday, October 25. The orchestra plays on hymns as well as accompaniment for the choir. For more information, please contact our Worship Director, Stephanie, at stephanie@stmfw.org.



OCTOBER SATURDAY PRAISE TEAM LINE-UP

October 7	New Song
October 14	Life Song
October 21	King's Strings
October 28	Jubilant Fields

ACADEMY UPDATE

Thanks to the generous donations from St. Michael members, six Academy students are currently receiving scholarships for lessons. What a blessing for these students and their families! If you are in the building between 3:00p-6:00p Monday through Thursday, you can hear the sounds of piano, violin, oboe, and guitar as our students improve the creative gifts God has given. Soli Deo Gloria; to God be the glory!

YOUTH WITH DCE INTERN EMMA DEINES

CHECK-IN WITH DCE INTERN EMMA!

As we transition into the new school year Sunday School, Youth Nights, Confirmation, and Food and Fellowship are in full swing. Over the next couple of months, the Youth will be studying and learning more about “Finding our Identity” and what it means to be a child of God. Our lives are busy, running around from one activity to the next but here we can take a moment to stop and think about the God who created us. He has a plan for us and has given us all gifts and talents to share His love with others. This month we continue to talk about “whose we are” and discuss how we can live that out in our daily lives.

INDIANA JUNIOR HIGH RALLY

Over the month of September, we were blessed to take a group of Middle School Youth to the Indiana Junior High Rally at Camp Lutherhaven. Our youth gathered with over 80 other students from Indiana to talk about, learn, and praise God for all His amazing blessings.



[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!

October 15
October 29

November 5
November 19

December 3
December 17

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHT! - October 18 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 October 18th! See you there!

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

“Connect” - For 8th Grade Confirmation

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

Service Opportunity for Youth!

Would you like to help serve the congregation at St. Michael? We are looking to create a Youth Greeter/Usher Team to help on Sunday mornings (on a rotation schedule). St. Michael is also looking for students to help with the Tech Booth, Alter Guild, and the sound system. If you are interested in serving in any of these areas, please contact DCE Intern Emma at emma@stmfw.org.

FUN WITH THE HOSPITALITY TEAM

Friendly folks make people smile the most!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve as a greeter, usher, or at our information desk! Greeting people with a smile, giving someone a bulletin, or helping someone find the bathroom or the nursery is IMPORTANT!

We all have a role to play in making those around feel welcome. Why not introduce yourself to someone sitting near you? Maybe get to know someone who is sitting alone and see if they want to sit with you? Show patience and grace to the kid who is tired and having a horrible, terrible, no good, very bad day. (And the parents who are probably also having a horrible, terrible, no good, very bad day!) **Be on the lookout for ways to include, encourage and engage!** Your thoughtfulness DOES make a difference!

*"A smile is
a curve
that sets
everything
straight."*

— Phyllis Diller

FAMILY MINISTRY with Jen Clendenen

Praise God for the tremendous Rally Day turnout! What a blessing to see the room packed with our church family smiling, laughing, and engaging with one another. It was such a joy to see all of our church family members gathered together in the gym, overflowing with love and support.



FAMILY MINISTRY with Jen Clendenen

FALL FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 28, 6:30p-8:30p

As the weather cools and the leaves begin to change, we welcome the arrival of Autumn! What better way to celebrate this wonderful season than with a Free Fall Family Fun Festival?

On Saturday, October 28th, we invite you to join us at the church from 6:30p-8:30p in the gym and parking lot for a night of autumn-inspired activities. Come early for worship at 5:00p and stay for the festivities! With games, a hot chocolate bar, dinner, trunk or treat, and plenty of fellowship, this event promises to be a fun-filled evening for all ages.

We encourage you to spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors to join us. This is a great opportunity for church members to come together and build relationships with families in our community.

Don't miss out on this chance to enjoy fall family fun and fellowship!

Volunteers and donations will be needed to make this event a success. Visit the information desk, call, or send an email to get involved.

Contact Jen Clendenen at Jen@stmfw.org or 492-2996 to volunteer in the following areas:

1. Decorate your trunk and hand out candy
2. Man a game station/table inside the gym and hand out prizes
3. Help serve the meal



Contact [Celine Newman](mailto:celine@stmfw.org) to make donations or volunteer to be a connection partner at celine@stmfw.org or 432-2033. Feel free to drop off donations under the lobby shelf! Thank you!

DONATIONS NEEDED:



1. Peanut-free candy, candy, candy!
2. Other individually packaged snacks (pretzels, popcorn, fruit snacks, etc.)
3. Apple cider or hot chocolate
4. Hot dogs and buns
5. Desserts

BELONG

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

Thursday October 12 at 12:00p

Join us for lunch and hear our speaker Pastor Larry Rast give a presentation on the history of Lutheranism in America with particular focus on the Fort Wayne Area. Charge is \$5.00 payable at the door. Reservations should be made by calling Penny Pequignot at 260-580-8730 by October 5th.

Thursday November 9 at 12:00p

We will be celebrating Veteran's Day with a special speaker. Rev. Frese, resident of Fort Wayne, is a military chaplain and also serves the church at large as the Deputy Director for Church Relations for the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod. Rev. Frese will talk about his time as a chaplain in Afghanistan, and now in Fort Wayne. He will talk about how military chaplains provide services to nurture the living, care for the wounded/dying, and honor the dead. We will enjoy a lunch from Mission BBQ. The charge for this event is \$10.00 payable at the door. Reserve your spot by calling Penny Pequignot at 580-8730 no later than November 2.

Thursday December 14 at 12:00p

Begin your Christmas festivities with enjoying Christian fellowship, a catered Christmas buffet by Goegleins, songs by our ESM children's choir and special music by Jubilant Fields, along with singing your favorite Christmas carols! Reservations are required by November 30, with a cost of \$20.

CONNECT MEALS ON THE 3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

Join us for a meal at a local restaurant after the service on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The next one will be October 21. Contact Celine Newman if you are planning on joining or for further details.



GAP MINISTRY—October 21/22

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—October 18

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—October 17

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

CALLING ALL PICKLEBALL PLAYERS

FUN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP—Tuesdays at 6:30p

Join us Tuesday evenings at Lakeside Park for pickle ball! All talent levels are welcome and encouraged! Contact Debbie Gotsch with questions at debbiegotsch@gmail.com.

COFFEE BREAK WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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



BOOK CLUB—Thursday, October 19 at 10:00a

Book club will meet the third Thursday of the month in the conference room. This month we are reading *Lady at the O.K. Corral* by Ann Kirschner. Anyone who enjoys reading and a good discussion is always welcome!

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

REFORMATION WEEKEND

October 28/19

ALL SAINTS WEEKEND

November 4/5

If you have Christian friends or relatives who died in the faith in this past year, we would like to honor them. Please email their full name and date of death to Tina@stmfw.org.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Sunday, November 19, at 10:45a

New members will formally be welcomed into the St. Michael family.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

Sunday, November 19, 5:00-7:00p

Our semi-annual meeting agenda will include ministry updates and approving a ministry budget for 2024. Childcare will be provided during the meal and meeting.

THANKSGIVING EVE AND DAY

Wednesday, November 22, 7:00p

Thursday, November 23, 10:00a



EMMANUEL-ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

ESM VESPERS – SAVE THE DATE

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

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

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

WELCOME OUR NEW FACULTY AND STAFF!



Carol Miller

Please welcome **Carol Miller**, our regular substitute teacher at the Getz Road Campus. Carol Miller was born in Jackson, Michigan, and lived in Michigan, Ohio and Virginia growing up as a Friends Church pastor's daughter. She graduated from Malone College, in Canton, Ohio, in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and psychology. In 2004, she returned to school at IPFW in the Transition to Teaching program, receiving certification in Elementary Education in 2005. From 2005 to 2010, Carol worked for the Southwest Allen County Schools as a substitute teacher, instructional aide, and 2nd grade teacher. She has been married to her husband, Duane, for 37 years and they are the parents of three children: a 30 year old daughter, a 28 year old son, and a 10 year old son, who is a 4th grader at ESM. Carol enjoys traveling, hiking, nature photography, reading, and working on puzzles in her free time. Carol is thrilled to be a part of the ESM team and thankful for the opportunity to get to know the students and support the teachers.



Heather Carter

With a goal of providing students, families, and school staff with social, emotional, behavioral, and mental wellness services and resources, ESM hired **Ms. Heather Carter** in a new role for ESM, the School Counselor. Heather will assist administration in delivering excellent education, and nurturing counseling services so students gain knowledge, skills, values, and Christian attitudes that will contribute to their development as holistically well, disciples of Jesus Christ.

Heather visits every classroom once a month with age-appropriate lessons that may focus on simple concepts like tattling, all the way to conflict resolution, bullying, and digital safety. "I'm seeing kids weekly in the hallway, helping in the car line, and that daily presence builds a relationship. Kids see me as someone in their corner." ESM is blessed to be the first Lutheran school in this area to provide this program, in part through the generous support of the Kinschner Family Foundation and The Lutheran Foundation.


Heather believes "we are offering a Christ-centered approach to holistic student development, partnering with parents and teachers to address barriers to learning and foster a climate of acceptance, empathy, and perseverance."

ST. MICHAEL FINANCIAL UPDATE

August 2023

INCOME	Actual	Budgeted	Actual vs budget
Offerings	\$1,051,830	\$1,105,933	\$(54,103)
Facility	\$9,587	\$8,333	\$1,254
Interest	\$12,283	\$4,667	\$7,616
Grants	\$2,849	\$20,175	\$(17,326)
Fellowship	\$1,018	\$1,500	\$(482)
ESM/CLHS Support	\$120	\$0	\$120
Misc.	\$528	\$0	\$528
Total Income	1,078,215	\$1,140,608	\$(62,393)
EXPENSES			
Missions	\$13,049	\$13,034	\$15
Education	\$437,833	\$437,833	\$0
Youth & Family	\$9,701	\$13,883	\$(4,182)
Administrative	\$26,042	\$23,000	\$3,042
Pastoral Support	\$4,677	\$6,380	\$(1,703)
Worship	\$13,276	\$11,822	\$1,454
Boards & Committees	\$5,265	\$9,383	\$(4,118)
Utilities, Maintenance & Supplies	\$124,706	\$118,372	\$6,334
Salaries	\$368,914	\$377,491	\$(8,577)
Taxes and Benefits	\$111,945	\$117,678	\$(5,733)
Nursery, Gym Setup, Worship	\$4,850	\$4,889	\$(39)
Total Expenses	1,120,258	\$1,133,765	\$(13,507)
Net Income (Loss)	\$(42,043)	\$6,843	\$(48,886)

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.

STEWARDSHIP from Christian Money Solutions

As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of the resources and blessings that God has entrusted to us. Being a faithful steward means recognizing that everything we have ultimately belongs to God and we must faithfully use those resources in a way that honors Him. Here are three must-know concepts for Christian stewards that can guide us in our journey of faithful stewardship.

1. GOD OWNS IT ALL.

The first concept that every Christian steward must grasp is that God is the ultimate owner of all things. The Bible clearly teaches that "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1). This means that our possessions, our talents, our time, and even our very lives are not truly ours but are gifts from God. Understanding this truth helps us cultivate an attitude of gratitude and humility, recognizing that we are mere custodians of the resources entrusted to us.

When we acknowledge God as the owner of all things, it changes our perspective on material possessions. Instead of pursuing wealth and materialism for our own selfish gain, we recognize that these resources are given to us for a purpose. We are called to use them wisely, generously, and in accordance with God's will.

Instead of pursuing wealth and materialism for our own selfish gain, we recognize that these resources are given to us for a purpose.

2. I AM HIS STEWARD.

The second concept for Christian stewards is understanding our role as stewards. A steward is someone who manages and cares for someone else's property or affairs. In the context of our relationship with God, we are stewards of His blessings. This includes not only material possessions but also our time, talents, relationships, and opportunities.

As stewards, we are entrusted with the responsibility of using these resources for God's glory and the well-being of others. The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30 illustrates this concept vividly. Each servant was given a certain number of talents (a unit of currency), and their master expected them to invest and multiply what was given to them. In the same way, God expects us to use our resources wisely, multiply them for His kingdom, and be held accountable for our stewardship. Recognizing ourselves as stewards helps us prioritize our actions and decisions. We are called to seek God's guidance in how we manage our time, talents, and finances, ensuring that they align with His purposes and bring Him honor. Recognizing ourselves as stewards helps us prioritize our actions and decisions.

3. EVERY SPENDING DECISION IS A SPIRITUAL DECISION.

The third must-know concept for Christian stewards is that every spending decision we make is a spiritual decision. Our financial choices are not separate from our faith but are interconnected with our spiritual life. Jesus Himself emphasized this connection when He said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

How we handle our finances reflects our priorities, values, and the condition of our hearts. Do we spend our money on worldly pleasures, indulging in materialism and selfish desires, or do we use it to bless others and advance God's kingdom?

How we handle our finances reflects our priorities, values, and the condition of our hearts.

Being intentional with our financial decisions means aligning them with biblical principles. It involves giving generously to support the work of the Church and meet the needs of others, practicing wise stewardship through saving and investing, and avoiding excessive debt and the pursuit of extravagant lifestyles. By making our spending decisions in light of God's Word and seeking His guidance, we can honor Him with our finances and be faithful stewards.

Being a Christian steward requires us to embrace these three fundamental concepts: recognizing that God owns everything, understanding our role as stewards, and realizing that every spending decision is a spiritual decision. When we internalize these principles, they shape our attitudes, actions, and priorities, enabling us to manage the resources entrusted to us in a way that brings God glory.

By David Sandhu

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@marksbodyshopincftw.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



FALL BIBLE STUDIES

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MONEY?

Join us as we explore a scripture-based 7-week financial class called “**Navigating Your Finances God’s Way.**” The videos, workbook questions, scripture readings, and group discussion will help you be a better steward of the gifts God has blessed you with while also improving your financial health and freedom. Whether you’re single or married, young or old, wealthy or not - this class is for you! Taught by Mary Leininger and Tim Thoms

NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES BIBLE STUDY

Paul is credited with writing half of the books (or better, letters) in the New Testament. These letters are highly personal communications from Paul, and often a co-author, to particular individuals or churches in the first century AD. These are all letters that God inspired Paul to write, meaning God is at work through reading someone else’s mail originally intended for a particular audience. These are all letters of relevance and power for God’s Church still today! As we finish out our reading through the New Testament this Fall, this class will focus on a significant portion of what we have been, or currently are, reading. Taught by Keith Peters

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH CONNECTION BIBLE STUDY

As St. Michael continues reading through the New Testament in a year, the Leadership Team is creating a weekly reading plan to help our church family 1) find their place, and 2) lead others in our discipleship model of Becoming More Like Jesus, Belonging to His Church, and Blessing His World...as we connect people to Jesus and others! Join us to learn more about the reading plan, the St. Michael discipleship model, and how to connect with others as a leader or participant in a connect group. Taught by Pastor Shawn

CREATIVE FAITH GATHERING

Join us for a meaningful and creative experience! Connect with fellow attendees through prayer and community building while enjoying activities like meditative coloring and Bible journaling. Led by Anna Davis and Jen Clendenen

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS CLASS (4 remaining sessions)

Sunday, October 8, 15, 22, 29 from 9:30a-10:30a

CFC is a great class for current members as well as anyone who has not been a member at a LCMS Church and is desiring to join membership at St. Michael. Contact Celine at celine@stmfw.org to sign up. Led by Celine Newman and Pastor Dennis Goff

DISCIPLESHIP FOUNDATIONS CLASS (3 sessions)

Sunday, November 5, 12, 19 from 9:30a-10:30a

DFC is for anyone taking further steps connecting into the church. It includes current members and those joining in membership at St. Michael by transfer from another LCMS church. Join us for this three-week class where we learn more about how God uniquely designed us and how we can use those gifts and talents in His kingdom.

PARABLES OF JESUS BIBLE STUDY

Monday nights at 7:00p

The Monday Night Bible study meets in the after school care room and will continue every week through November 20. We are looking closely at the Parables of Jesus. The cost of the class is \$5. Please contact Terry Butler if you wish to attend (or if you have any questions) at tgbslb67@yahoo.com or call/text him at **515-6356**.

GOOD INFORMATION TO KNOW!

A VALUABLE RESOURCE FROM WORSHIP ANEW

Did you know that most retirees are Christians and not churchgoers? According to research, older generations feel that they have something to contribute but few feel valued. A data-informed strategy can help individuals, families, caregivers, and churches reach this age group.

Because of this, Worship Anew partnered with Barna Group to create a research journal, called "Aging Well." This journal features statistics and research about aging adults to help churches, families, and those caring for older generations have more information on serving them. The journal will be available to purchase on October 17 at <https://shop.barna.com>.

"In serving the aging population, we reach people experiencing some of life's most difficult circumstances," said Matthew Leighty, Worship Anew's executive director. "As we investigated the needs of the aging population, we quickly realized that, while significant studies have been conducted on the faith life of younger generations, the same is not true for older generations. Given Barna Group's almost 40 years of experience in researching the Church and the needs of believers, they were the logical choice to conduct this important research."

The journal provides charts, statistics, and a breakdown of the data to help readers make an informed strategy for interactions with aging adults. For Worship Anew, the research will continue to support the work of providing resources to strengthen and support the spiritual, mental, and physical well-being of aging adults and those who minister and care for them.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS! CHECK OUT THIS OPPORTUNITY

Monday, October 16, 5:00p-7:00p (open to public)

Did you know you can continue your Lutheran education after high school, and choose from among universities in California, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin? On Monday, October 16, representatives from 5 of the 6 universities in the Concordia University System and our two Seminaries will be at CLHS to share more about all they have to offer. Join us at Concordia Lutheran High School in the Worship Conference Center to learn about the many programs and opportunities, and how affordable a Lutheran post-secondary education can be!

REGISTER YOUR VOTE

It's National Register to Vote Month and Hoosiers have until October 10 to register or update their registration before November's municipal elections. To register, visit IndianaVoters.com and click the "Register To Vote" tab, or register in person at your county clerk's office. Already registered? You can check or update your voter registration status, find your nearest voting location and see who's on your ballot while on the state's website.

DEEPER STILL HEALING RETREAT—Friday, October 13

If you are searching for healing, this retreat is specifically designed for abortion wounded men and women. Sign up at <https://www.deeperstillnorthernindiana.org/>.

GOD'S BLESSINGS ON OUR OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES!

God's blessings to...	Day	Years	God's blessings to...	Day	Years
Bryan and Jody Foos	1	12	Robert and Linda Hansen	15	40
Don and Kerri Mueller	1	18	Eric and Sarah Lahey	15	29
Robert and Martha Roehm	2	19	Greg and Jill Caudill	16	24
Dan and Sharon Smith	2	47	Jacob and Jen Clendenen	16	24
Bruce and Cori Cable	3	14	Gregory and Lynda McGehee	16	41
Jonathan and Alexis Lane	3	3	Clyde and Cheryl Wood	16	24
David and Lisa Lorenz	3	26	Kevin and Denise Scholz	18	26
Tim and Amy Katt	4	9	Phil and Sarah Sponseller	18	9
Wyatt and Hillary Larkin	5	4	Brian and Angie Judt	20	33
Adam and Jami Jo Hahn	7	34	Dean and Molly Kiefer	20	33
Phil and Ivy Gray	10	52	Steve and Nancy Wallace	20	45
Lance and Cassie Moquin	10	6	Nathan and Jennifer Nix	23	24
Travis and Allison Runyan	10	9	Jay and Susan Jones	25	20
Nicholas and Danielle Hetrick	11	15	Joe and Casey Lee	25	14
Pastor Dennis and Laura Goff	13	39	Brett and Jayda Butler	26	21
Mark and Shelly Witmer	13	30	Robert and Karen Oldsen	26	21
Dave and Myra Atkinson	14	17	David and Catherine Rosine	26	60
Virgil and Phyllis Brockmann	15	63	Moe and Mindi Schoeph	26	21
Michael and Melissa Carsten	15	18	Emory and Susan Craver	28	51
			Neil and Cassie Swartz	29	35

OCTOBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS



We will celebrate baptism birthdays on October 21/22.
 Please pray for Maddux Bohnke; Kennedy Cable;
 Hayes and Jase Clinkenbeard; Charlotte and Annabelle Fredrickson;
 Harper Henry; Lorrie Lutz; William Mueller; William Stir;
 Gretchen Tribble; Estelle Urban; Levi Weirauch

OCTOBER MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

God's blessings to: Harry Jones, 10/2, 81; Ron Nieman, 10/2, 82;
 Lynn Schrogam, 10/5, 82; Mary Nichols, 10/7, 87;
 Linda Lewis, 10/13, 81; Otis Vincent, 10/18, 89;
 Ken Springer, 10/20, 81; Frank Helfrich, 10/25, 81;
 Tom Risk, 10/26, 81.