

St. Michael's Lutheran Church
3455 S. Van Buren Road
Reese, MI 48757



CONNECTING People To Jesus

St. Michael's of Richville, Michigan

People and Personnel Changes



Life never stands still. That is true for the Church as it is for everything else in life. Now that we are several months into the year, I'd like to update you on some of the "people changes" we've experienced here at St. Michael's.

Julia Low, our new church secretary, has been with us for several months and is fitting in nicely to our ministry. She is a quick learner and is off to an excellent start in handling her many tasks in the church office. She is a joy to work with and gives a warm welcome to all who walk through the door. Julia works Tuesday—Thursday from 10-4.

Julie Rupprecht has finished training her granddaughter Julia and has moved on to retirement. I would like to thank her for her 35 years of dedicated service, and I was here for 27 of those years. St Michael's was blessed with Julie's many talents: her creativity in making banners and formatting newsletters and bulletins; her thoroughness and organizational skills in updating the church calendar and numerous church records; her resourcefulness in finding supplies at the best price. Whenever someone came in with a question about memorials or Lenten suppers or baptism dates or Christmas poinsettias, Julie knew the answer. I know Pastor Hakes and Pastor Gaden would give a hearty "Amen!" as well.

Nancy Bierlein continues to work on Mondays in the church office. She records Communion registrations and financial contributions. Nancy is

very conscientious. When she finishes those things she always looks for something else to do, whether it is answering emails, following up on phone calls, or straightening up the entryway. (If she wants a real challenge, she could help me straighten up my messy desk!)

Pastor Mark Auernhamer is in his third month with us at St Michael's. He preaches on an occasional Sunday and leads worship two Wednesdays a month. I am also pleased that some of our shut-in members have asked him for a communion visit, so they can get to know him. Pastor Auernhamer will be starting an adult membership class on Sunday, April 16th, for all who are interested in learning more about the basic teachings of God's Word.

In January **Rebecca Gehm** was contracted as our 8th grade teacher, and has been called to the same position following her graduation from Concordia University, Mequon, WI. We are waiting on the call paperwork to make it's way through the Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod. Her parents are Dave and Elaine Gehm. You may recognize her father's name since he is the CEO of Wellspring. Rebecca has two brothers and a sister: Paul, John, and Rachel. She was born in Detroit and raised in Flint and Frankenmuth where she went to middle school, and then Valley Lutheran in Saginaw. She graduated in December from Concordia University Wisconsin. Her main hobbies are esports, animals (she did a lot of volunteering in high school at ani-

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mal shelters and originally wanted to become a vet before deciding on teaching), and reading.

We are thankful for all who have served St. Michael's in the past as well as those who serve now. And, of course, we are richly blessed with many volunteers in our church, school, and childcare.

- Pastor Gillaspie



Remember RaiseRight (formerly Script) when planning your spring/summer gift giving needs!

(ie: Easter, Confirmation, Graduation, Anniversaries, or Birthdays. We also have Sam's Club and Gordon's gift cards available for your party planning needs. This is an easy and simple way to shop while fundraising for St. Michael's. Simply contact the school office or grab an order form from the box in the church foyer or you may order online through RaiseRight.com. For the Enrollment Code or other questions contact Cheryl (989)882-5621 or Lavonne (989)863-0081. With the end of the school year quickly approaching, we ask that all orders be placed by May 1st to allow time for processing and delivery. Any in stock gift cards will be available until the last day of the school year. Thank you!



By his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5, NIV

HOW CAN WE
Thank
God
ENOUGH FOR YOU?
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9, NIV -



Lutherans Laymen's League

During our meeting Monday, April 17th, German visitor Gunter Kohlmann will be out special guest. He will be talking about and showing pictures from Neuendettlesau, where he is from, and also some of our Frankenhilf founding fathers. We will meet in the church overflow room at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to join!



Thank You! - LLL

Thank you to everyone who helped with and came to enjoy our Card Party! We raised \$1,052 for the Lutheran Hour local radio station from your contributions.

Thank you everyone who took part in contributing to Lutheran's Hour Ministry on March 5th. We raised \$921.20 for the cause. God Bless You All!



LLL Peat Moss Sale

The Lutheran Laymen's League is planning to have the Peat Moss sale again this year (May 5th&6th). We have ordered 1000 40 pound bags. We are waiting to hear from the supplier to confirm that we can get the order. We are not able to get any peat in bulk this year. Watch for further information on flyers and the bulletin You may call Jim Hecht 989-823-9252 or 989-670-1710

Shut-in Member's Birthdays

Doris Buchinger - September 3rd

Robert Hadaway - September 4th

Don Hecht - October 23rd

Doris Heindl - July 27th

Robert Heinlein - May 24th

Faith Heinlein - February 24th

Wayne Landskroener - October 10th

John Mayer - October 11th

Mary Ann Mossner - December 3rd

Nancy Palmreuter - January 3rd

Mel Rupprecht - April 1st

Barb Rupprecht - March 27th

Margaret Schemm - April 15th

Charlie Weber - July 11th



| † Financial Report as of 02/28/23 | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| MISSIONS | | | |
| Missions Collected YTD | Goal \$50,000 | | \$ 40,779.00 |
| Non Budget Missions Collected YTD | | | \$ 666.00 |
| HOME PURPOSE | | | |
| | | MTD | YTD |
| Home Purpose Balance as of 7/1/2022 | | | \$ 53,862.98 |
| Home Purpose Income | | \$ 75,070.84 | \$878,657.31 |
| Home Purpose Expenses | | \$ 110,587.50 | \$957,906.18 |
| Thrivent Choice in-H.P. \$ 2,430.00 | | \$ (35,516.66) | \$ (79,248.87) |
| School Income | | \$ 2,593.25 | \$78,096.50 |
| School Expenses | | \$ 5,331.26 | \$62,780.36 |
| | | \$ (2,738.01) | \$15,316.14 |
| Child Care/Preschool Income | | \$ 34,509.68 | \$387,045.94 |
| Child Care/Preschool Expenses | | \$ 42,246.45 | \$350,336.50 |
| Thrivent Choice in Childcare \$ - | | \$ (7,736.77) | \$36,709.44 |
| Home Purpose Balance (includes Child Care/Preschool/School) | | | \$ 26,639.69 |
| New Construction Balance as of 7/1/2022 | | MTD | \$255,095.71 |
| Income | Goal \$250,000 | \$ 6,658.95 | \$53,622.89 |
| Expenses | | \$ 51,635.28 | \$205,692.05 |
| New Construction Fund Balance | | \$ (44,976.33) | \$103,026.55 |
| Franklin Ave Mission | Goal \$5,000 | \$ 50.00 | \$2,480.00 |
| Capital Improvement Balance as of 7/1/2022 | | MTD | \$179,071.42 |
| Collected | Goal \$80,000 | \$ 3,680.99 | \$28,378.33 |
| Expenses | | \$ 2,449.78 | \$7,605.99 |
| Capital Improvement Balance | | \$ 1,231.21 | \$199,843.76 |

Stewardship Minute

Follow The P's of Giving For A Happy And Healthy Life

Studies have shown that generosity can lead to a happy and healthier life, but perhaps the best reason to strive to be a generous person is because **God loves a cheerful giver.** (2 Cor. 9:7)

Increasing your generosity financially is easier when you have a plan for saving, investing, and giving when done intentionally. Consider the **FOUR P's** to help you in this regard.

PRIORITY: Are you giving God the leftovers? We need to do the 1st Fruits Giving. Give First, save second, and spend the rest. 10-10-80 is a great formula that has always worked.

PERCENTAGE: What percentage would you like to give? If 10% is too much of a stretch start with a little smaller and then progressively, work it higher. **Honor the Lord with your wealth and the first fruits of all your crops.** (Prov. 3:9)

PROGRESSIVE: We can't always meet our living goals. However, by progressively increasing our giving %, we can get closer over time. Many generous givers have been known to increase their % to as much as 90% over time. Remember, you cannot outgive God! After all it's all His anyway. How much more will you give in this coming year and next?

PROMPTED: Never let your plan get in the way of generosity's emotional and inspirational needs. Leave room for special needs that pulls on your heart strings. Many times there are immediate hardships and special door offerings, that you can be part of the solution and befriend in that way. What causes have you recently felt prompted to support? Develop a giving strategy for finding new opportunities to experience the JOY OF GENEROSITY.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Doug Gruber Memorial Sports Scholarship

St. Michael's high school 2023 seniors who participated in high school sports are now eligible for a \$1500 scholarship in memory of Doug Gruber. This scholarship is run and payable through Reese High School. Applications for this scholarship can be picked up at our church office and should be returned there by April 7th Contact *Dennis and Vickie Gruber* at 868-3684 if you have any questions.



Notes from the Music Director

HAPPY APRIL!

Aah, the month of April. Taxes due. Adjustment to Daylight Savings Time finally complete. My wife's birthday. Spring break concludes. Spring weather arrives? Baseball season. (Do any sports fans here remember "April in the D"?) And this year (like many, but not all) we include Holy Week and the start of the Easter season.

This is a remarkable time in the church calendar. We experience these events of Holy Week in real time. After Advent, where we compress 2000 years of promises into four short Sundays, and Epiphany, where we cover the first years of our Lord's life and ministry in a mere few weeks, the season of Lent begins to slow us down. We take the 40 days of Lent and are reminded of our Lord's 40-day fast before He began His public ministry. Then in this last week of Lent we move into real time. Palm Sunday, our Lord's entrance into Jerusalem, begins a week-long journey which moves us to the upper room on Thursday, to Calvary on Friday, and then a three-day hiatus as our Lord is in the tomb. This was the greatest week in the history of the world, and we do well to take the time to remember each of these events.

The second noteworthy thing about this month is the sheer number of times at which we are called to gather in worship. On Maundy Thursday we remember the great gift that our Lord gave to us in instituting His supper for us. On Good Friday we gather to recall how great our Lord's sacrifice was on our behalf, and we rejoice in the life that His death brought to us. Many churches hold a service called the Easter Vigil on Saturday. Everything culminates on Easter Sunday. What a joy to be able to gather in God's house to celebrate these great blessings!

Notice, also, how all of these things point us to the greatest festival of the year. Easter Sunday is the celebration of our Lord's resurrection, the event which shows His power over sin and death and assures of our own resurrection. This season, too, is celebrated in real time, which lasts until the day of Pentecost fifty days later. This season, too, has many things for us to celebrate! Jesus, the reason for the season, is risen! Let us rejoice!

Be with us through this season, Lord, And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns, We join in heaven's praise. (LSB 418:4)
A blessed April to all!

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS NOW IN PRINT!

Concordia Publishing House has recently released a large print edition of *Lutheran Service Book*. This book is identical to the one in our pew racks now, except that it has bigger pages and appropriately larger fonts for words and music. Our pastor, music director, and board of elders have agreed that we have members who would appreciate having this resource available. The cost is \$49.99 per book; if you would be interested in purchasing one (or more!) for the church, please bring your money to the church office. For more information, check out the video at . Thank you!



ST. MICHAEL'S HANDBELL ENSEMBLE AT VALLEY LUTHERAN

The St. Michael's handbell ensemble has accepted an invitation to be a part of a handbell concert taking place at Valley Lutheran High School at 4:00 on Sunday, April 13. The concert will feature handbells from several different churches around Saginaw. Each group will present two short pieces and then the concert will conclude with all of the groups combining for a massed number. Come on out and enjoy some great, fun handbell music!

Puzzle!

Are you getting "antsy" for spring?
Using the clues provided, fill in the spaces to complete these words that end in A-N-T.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | A | N | T | | | | |
| | | | A | N | T | | | |
| | | | | A | N | T | | |
| | | | | | A | N | T | |
| | | | | | | A | N | T |

CLUES (from top row to bottom row):

- ▼ An 8-foot man would be one
- ▼ To take back one's testimony
- ▼ Opposite of a master
- ▼ Pertaining to, germane
- ▼ A drug that heightens the senses

Answers: giant, recant, servant, relevant, stimulant



23rd Annual Passion Drama

March 31st at 6:00 and 7:30 & April 1st at 4:30, 6:00, and 7:30
Where? Inside The Church!

There are sign-up sheets in the foyer. You can put your sign-up sheet in the box at the entrance of church, or in Leona Doud's mailbox. If you want to sign up by e-mail send to firefighterdoud@gmail.com. We hope many of you will participate as we tell the story of our Savior's suffering and death!



Tuesday, April 11th
1 to 6 p.m. at church
Make your appointment
by calling 866-642-5663
Or by visiting Versiti.org
We'll have pizza
and T-shirts.



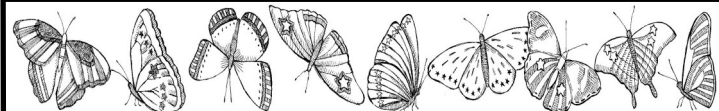
Sloppy Joe Fundraiser

Let the 6th and 7th graders cook lunch for you! We will be hosting a sloppy joe fundraiser after early and late church services on **Sunday, April 16th** in the foyer. You will receive a sloppy joe, bag of chips, and a cookie. The cost is **\$5** each. Proceeds will go towards their Washington, DC trip in the fall. A special thank you to Pam Mossner and St. Michael's Outreach for a Norm's gift card as well as Thrivent Financial for making this possible.



Gifts and Memorials

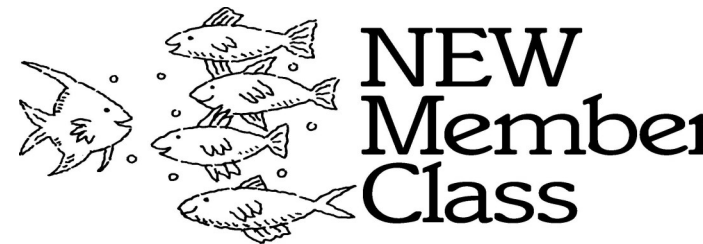
- Bill Hinton
Missions— \$10.00
- Ron Zwerk
Park Hall— \$20.00
- Sonja Auernhamer
Park Hall Tables & Chairs— \$255.00
Missions— \$10.00
- Sylvia Buetow
Missions— \$10.00
Park Hall— \$1,545.00
Home Purpose— \$10.00
- Mike Roedel
Martin Hecht Scholarship— \$50.00



CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED *Alleluia*

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for VBS July 10-13th, evenings. Free dinner will be served each night. Volunteers are needed in various areas. Teens are also welcome to help, and get volunteer service hours. Please contact Heather Reinbold 989-577-0013 if you are willing to help.



NEW Member Class

On Sunday, April 16th, at 7:00 PM Pastor Auernhamer will begin a new member class in the church overflow room. This class covers the basic teachings of the Christian faith, and is a prerequisite for anyone who would like to join the Lutheran Church if you are not already a confirmed member. Not only is this for new members, it is also an excellent review for current members of the church. It's also good time to ask questions about things in the Bible and the Church you may have wondered about but weren't sure where to go for answers. Please call the church office (868-4791) if interested.

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK BOWLING



Make this fun summer game to play at the beach, a park or in your yard.

What you need:

- 10 empty plastic bottles (same size)
- 10 or more glow sticks
- Water (optional)
- Star stickers (optional)
- Hamster ball (or regular ball)
- Tape

What you do:

1. Place one or two activated glow sticks in each bottle. Fill bottles with water and decorate with star stickers, if desired. Screw on lids.
2. Put some glow sticks inside the hamster ball. Screw the halves together, and secure sides and lid with tape.
3. Challenge someone to a game of bowling. For the best glowing effect, play after dark.

For I know that my Redeemer lives.

Job 19:25

