

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



APRIL



CONNECTING
People To Jesus
St. Michael's of Richville, Michigan

Pastor Keith Knea to be installed June 16th



Dear friends in Christ,

As you are aware by now, Pastor Keith Knea has accepted the divine call to serve as our administrative pastor. We give thanks to God He has answered our prayers "to send workers into His harvest field." (Matthew 9:38)

Although he was born in Evansville, IN, Pastor Knea lived in Michigan for several years. He went to school in Jackson, and then attended Kettering University in Flint, earning a Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering. Answering our Lord's call to work in the harvest field, he attended Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, graduating with the Master of Divinity degree in 2008. His wife Sara has a teaching degree in Elementary Education from Concordia University, Chicago.

Pastor and Sara have four children: Elizabeth, who is a student at Purdue University; Joshua, who will be graduating from high school this spring; Joseph, who just finished his freshman year; and Jesse, who is 3 years old.

As we prepare to welcome Pastor Knea and his family, I'd like the members of St. Michael's to be mindful of several things as we begin a new chapter in our 173 years of history and ministry.

First, be thankful for Pastor Knea (and all our church workers, for that matter). Our seminaries have experienced declining enrollment for several years. We are not graduating enough pastors to replace those who are retiring or leaving the ministry. Until this trend is reversed, some congregations are going to have a difficult time finding a pastor to serve their churches. We had 8 calls declined before Pastor Knea accepted. The same is true for teacher graduates from our Concordias. There aren't enough of them to meet the vacant teaching positions in our Lutheran schools. If you are a young man or woman in our church, our Lord Jesus Christ needs you to answer His call too!

Second, let's keep our expectations realistic. Sometimes when a new pastor arrives people think that church attendance will go up, offerings will go up, school enrollment will go up, and everything will change for the better. A new pastor can't make all that happen. It can only happen if the members of the church, motivated by the

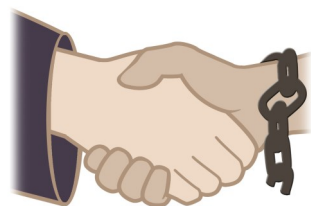
(Continued on page 2)



Holy Spirit, are determined to make it happen. We would do well to remember St. Paul's words to the Corinthians: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." (1 Cor. 3:8) What can you expect of a new pastor? You can expect him to do the things he will promise to do at his installation: "I promise to perform the duties of this office in accordance with these Confessions (of the Lutheran Church) and that all my teaching and administration of the Sacraments are in conformity with the Holy Scriptures." (Lutheran Worship Agenda, pg. 225) God told the prophet Jeremiah, "Let the one who has my word speak it faithfully." (Jeremiah 23:28)

Finally, we owe a word of thanks to the Call Committee. They served for three years and spent many hours reading paperwork on each candidate, conducting interviews, discussing the various candidates, and entertaining the pastors who came to visit. The members of the committee are Amy Bickel, Emily Bierlein, Heather Bierlein, Luke Bierlein, Mark Frank, Kristen Hecht, Mike Rogers, Becky Squanda, Jay Trombley, and Janice Weiss. I was impressed with how the members of the committee handled the work they were asked to do. After several years of meetings, deliberations, and having calls declined, it would have been easy to become impatient and frustrated. But this committee kept a positive attitude and stayed focused on what St. Michael's needed. "Well done, good and faithful servants!" (Matthew 25:23)

In Christ Jesus,



...welcome him
as you would
welcome me.
PHILEMON 1:17, NRSV

Mary Martha MEETING

April 1st, 7 p.m.

Pastor Gillaspie will be giving a tour of the Stained Glass Windows throughout the church. Please feel free to join us!



Rummage Sale

Bring your donations to the Richville Legion Hall. Items you may donate include clothing, toys, sporting goods, furniture decorations etc.

Rummage Sale
Lots of treasures to choose from!

Friday April 5th
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday April 6th
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Richville Legion Hall
1/2 mile west of Richville on M-46

Proceeds go towards Mission Projects

Sponsored by Mary Martha Guild

St. Michael's Lutheran Church
Website: stmichaelsrichville.com
989-868-4791

Collection dates

Mon. April 1,
9am to 3pm

Tues. April 2,
6pm to 8pm

Wed. April 3,
8am to 12 noon

If you have any questions, call
Judy Janson
(989)868-4294

PRAYER PAL



Mary Martha is now planning for the annual Prayer Pal Pizza Party, at which time the Prayer Pals reveal their identity to the 8th graders. They have an evening of food, fun, and fellowship (one parent included). This year the Prayer Pal Pizza Party will be held on Thursday, April 25th, 2024 at 5:45 P.M. in the St. Michael's School Cafeteria. This event is sponsored and supported by the Mary Martha Guild and Thrivent Financial. Invitations will be in your mailboxes at church!

Puzzle!

Fill in the horizontal rows using the clues. Then, using the number codes, complete the squares below to read three Beatitudes from Luke 6:20-21, NIV.

Grassy area behind a house

Blooms that have petals

Spring precipitation

Puffy and white in the sky

Soil

Lawn

Must be weeded and tended

Tiptoe through these

Baby sheep

We need food and this

God made this from nothing

A sign of God's promise

These, in April, bring May flowers

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | | | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | |
| 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | | | |
| 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | | |
| 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | | |
| 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | | | |
| 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | | | |
| 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 |
| 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | |
| 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | |

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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 10 | 13 | 15 | 25 | 39 | 38 | | 2 | 7 | 13 | | 5 | 22 | 23 | | 12 | 73 | 11 |
| 17 | 31 | 39 | | 45 | 22 | 63 | 7 | | 9 | 70 | 56 | | 5 | 22 | 23 | 58 | 46 | | |
| | 27 | 15 | | 61 | 73 | 13 | | 4 | 18 | 19 | 30 | 26 | 22 | 49 | | 22 | 9 | | |
| 30 | 63 | 26 | | 1 | 47 | 55 | 72 | 78 | 39 | 26 | | 60 | 77 | 59 | | 5 | 74 | 23 | |
| | 12 | 73 | 70 | | 73 | 23 | 40 | 35 | 13 | 56 | | 64 | 70 | 75 | | 9 | 11 | 65 | |
| 5 | 63 | 23 | | 75 | 18 | 10 | 47 | | 1 | 76 | | 72 | 48 | 61 | 27 | 34 | 9 | 44 | 13 |
| 26 | | 1 | 43 | 55 | 72 | 78 | 76 | 24 | | 2 | 7 | 13 | | 5 | 22 | 23 | | 75 | 73 |
| 22 | | 12 | 59 | 39 | 45 | | 64 | 63 | 52 | | 9 | 22 | 58 | | 5 | 70 | 42 | | |
| 52 | 44 | 10 | 47 | | 10 | 2 | 23 | 35 | 73 | | | | | | | | | | |

Answers: backyard, flowers, rain, clouds, dirt, grass, garden, tulips, lambs, water, creation, rainbow, showers; "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."

Little Dresses Sewing Ministry

Save the date for our next sewing session Saturday, April 20th, from 9 AM until 4 PM.

We will meet at Mary Reinbold's place to sew dresses for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. There are parts that don't require sewing, so please consider joining us for some great fellowship. We will have a pot-luck lunch at noon.



If you have donations such as cotton fabric, narrow elastic, thread and ric rac, please put the items in the blue tote in the coat room at church.

If you have any questions or would like kits to sew at home, please contact Mary Reinbold.

Remember Raiseright

(formerly called Script) when planning your spring and summer gift-giving needs (Easter, Confirmation, Graduation, Anniversaries, or Birthdays). We also have Sam's Club and Gordon's gift cards available. This is a simple and easy 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. You may also order through RaiseRight.com. For the enrollment code or other questions please contact Cheryl Hecht (882-5621) or Lavonne Richards (863-0081). With the end of the school year fast approaching, we ask that all orders be placed by May 1st to allow time for processing and delivery. In-stock gift cards will be available through the last day of school.



We are looking for men and women of all ages to help out with ushering. We have 12 teams so you don't have to usher every Sunday. Duties include greeting people, handing out bulletins and programs and guiding people to communion. Consider serving God in this ministry and contact Matt Buchinger at (989)860-9136.



Prayer Chain Invitation

Would you like to become more involved in the church but don't have time for monthly meetings? Are responsibilities at home with young children or the fact that you aren't able to drive any more keeping you from becoming more involved in the church at this time in your life? Joining our prayer chain might be something to consider. If you would like to become a part of our group or have any questions, contact me at elain-ekeinath@gmail.com or call me at 989-882-3377. The only requirement from you is a genuine interest in praying for others & your email address. It's as simple as that. Won't you consider becoming a prayer warrior with us? If you have a prayer request, contact Elaine.



Music Corner



From the MUSIC DIRECTOR

The story is told (and perhaps it is fiction, perhaps not) that a young parishioner once approached his pastor with a simple statement. "Pastor, I've been coming to church my whole life, and it is always the same. Why should I keep coming week after week when I already know all the parts of the service?"

Needless to say, the pastor was concerned about this, as this young man was an important part of the congregation. The pastor went home that afternoon, prayed about it, and then began formulating an answer. Being a poet, his answer began to take on a unique form and shape. His answer eventually became a hymn in our Lutheran Service Book. I invite you to find LSB 910 as we examine his answer together:

Now the silence, Now the peace, Now the empty hands uplifted,

Now the kneeling, Now the plea, Now the Father's arms in welcome

This is how our liturgical service begins. We begin with a plea for God's forgiveness, and the Father forgives our sins (through the words of the pastor) and welcomes us into His presence.

Now the hearing, Now the power,

We then hear God's word proclaimed to us. Through hearing of His word God gives us the strengthening of our faith. This strength will be needed by us as we face a new week of opportunities and challenges.



"The Almost 20th Annual" Valley Lutheran High School Handbell Concert Sunday, April 14th, 4:00 P.M.

Come join us for a free handbell concert, with our very own **St. Michael's Handbell Choir** featured!

Other Featured Choirs: Good Shepherd, Saginaw; Immanuel, Bay City; Resurrection, Saginaw; Valley Lutheran H.S., Saginaw.

Posters can be found on the bulletin board in the church.



*Now the vessel brimmed for pouring,
Now the body, Now the blood,
Now the joyful celebration*

The other highlight of our time together in God's presence is His gift of the Lord's Supper. In this meal Christ gives us His true body and blood, which assure us of the forgiveness of our sins and the continued strengthening of our faith. This is cause for celebration!

Now the wedding, Now the songs, Now the heart forgiven leaping,

In the supper, we are united with God. Scripture compares the Lord's Supper to a wedding banquet, uniting Christ with His bride, the church. Like any wedding celebration, there is singing, dancing, and general merriment. We rejoice in the gifts He gives us!

*Now the Spirit's visitation, Now the Son's epiphany,
Now the Father's blessing, Now, Now, Now*

We close the service with a three-fold benediction, reminding us of the triune God whom we worship. We have the name of Father, Son, and Spirit written on us in our baptism, and this continues with us throughout our lives.

"But," you can imagine the young man saying, "I already know all of this. Why do we repeat it week after week?" The simple answer: these things are happening NOW! God comes to us in Word and Sacrament every week. Faith desires to be in the presence of God. Come and celebrate the Lord's gifts! They are new every week!

-Dr. Jon Eifert



In Memory

Wanda Reinert
Home Purpose—\$65.00
School Music—\$1,365.00
Hot Lunch—\$50.00

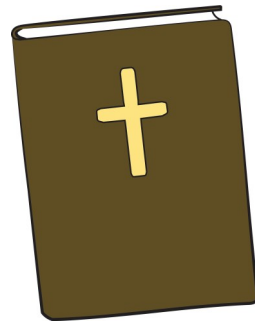
In Honor

Lorine Nickodemus 90th Birthday
-a gift was given to Home Purpose by Charles & De-
lores Rodammer

Nancy Gruber
-a gift was given to the Music Department by Lorine &
lone

BIBLES FOR FIRST GRADERS:

Each of our first grade students will be presented with a Bible during the 7:45 a.m. service on Sunday, April 28th. We would love to see you there!



Lutheran Laymen's League

MEETING

Monday, April 15th

Church Overflow Room, 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join our meeting, with special guest **State Representative, Matthew Bierlein. Matthew** will be giving us an update on what's happening in Lansing. Our President, **John Schnell**, will bring refreshments, We look forward to seeing you all there!



Peat Moss Sale

The Lutheran Laymen's League is having the annual Peat Moss Sale on Friday May 3 from noon to 5 pm and Saturday May 4 from 9 am to 1:00 pm. Peat moss is an excellent conditioner for your hard garden and flower bed soil. It may make your gardening work more enjoyable all summer. We are selling 40 pound bags of peat moss for \$4.50, and if you BUY 10 bags you get 1 FREE. Order early to be assured you will get the amount you need. Call Mark at 989-280-1166 or Jim 989-670-1710 or 989-823-9252. This project is supported by Thrivent Financial. The proceeds will benefit Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Thank you for your support

Vacation Bible School

Your skills and talents are needed to plan for the 2024 VBS, which will be held evenings of Monday thru Thursday, July 8th - 11th. We need teachers, decorators, music leaders, snack planners, classroom assistants, crafters, registration organizers, foam machine operators, cleanup crew, and activity coordinators. Each year we have more students and need more help. Please come to our meeting on **Tuesday April 16th at 7:00 pm** in the school conference room to learn more! If you're unable to attend the meeting but are interested in helping, please contact Heather Reinbold.



STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

Here's some Biblical Financial Wisdom Bits At A Glance

"Do your best to present yourselves to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who accurately handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy :15)

TOPIC: Cash Flow & Living Expenses
Spend less than you earn!! Reducing living expenses is the least costly way to increase cash flow. One way is to review all your subscriptions. Another is to remove credit card balances. Three key lifestyle components: Provision, Contentment, and Enjoyment (Phil. 4:11-12, 1Timothy 5:8, 1Timothy 6:6, 1 Timothy 6:17-19)

TOPIC: Perspective
GOD OWNS IT ALL! WE ARE TEMPORARY TRUSTEES!

TOPIC: Risk Management
Life Insurance does not indicate a lack of faith (1 Timothy 5:8)

TOPIC : Net Worth
Net worth and self worth are not related. How Much Is Enough??? Money is : a tool to accomplish the goals and the purposes of God. Money is : a test of our earthly money management with eternal consequences. Money is : A testimony to the world.

TOPIC: Stewardship
Some implications of biblical stewardship are that stewardship is the only area of the Christian life that cannot be faked. Every spending decision is a spiritual decision. God can take whatever He wants whenever He wants.

Some good symptoms of stewardship are that of Proportionate Giving, Controlled Lifestyle, Debt-Free Lifestyle, Taxes Paid With Integrity and with Thanksgiving, Setting Goals Jointly, and Being Accountable. (1Chonicles 29 :11-12, Matthew 25 : 14-30, Luke 12: 42-48)



BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Tuesday, April 9th
1 to 6 p.m.

at the Park Hall
Make your appointment
by calling 866-642-5663
Or by visiting Versiti.org

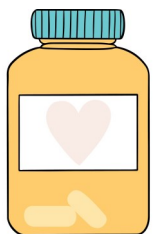


Sloppy Joe Benefit for Sherri Kreiger **MARK YOUR CALANDERS!**

A Sloppy Joe benefit will be held on Sunday, April 14th, starting at 11:45 at St. Michael's Lutheran Church

We would love to see you there to help support Sherri and her husband Roger, our custodian here at St. Michael's.

If you are unable to attend and would like to make a donation, it can be mailed to the church office (3455 S. Van Buren Rd. Reese, MI 48757).



A joyful heart is good medicine.
Proverbs 17:22, ESV