



CONNECTING People To Jesus

St. Michael's of Richville, Michigan

How Are We Managing God's Money?

If you've been following the national news you've heard of the newly-appointed Department of Government Efficiency. President Trump took the U.S. Digital Service, gave it a new name, and tasked DOGE with finding government waste and fraud. And boy, did they ever find a lot of waste. Here are just a few examples of how our government spent your tax dollars over the last couple of years:

- \$20,000 for drag queen shows in Ecuador
- \$118,000 for a study on why snapping your fingers makes noise
- \$20 million for a Sesame Street-type show in Iraq
- \$10 million dollars for male circumcision in Mozambique
- \$2 million for pottery classes and promotion of pottery products in Morocco

Seriously, I'm not making this up. You can go to doqe.gov and find a long list of ridiculous—perhaps criminal—expenditures of the money you paid in taxes to the federal government. We've known that wasteful spending in our government has been a problem for decades. Years ago, an older member of our church (he has since passed away) told me he saw perfectly good equipment and supplies thrown away when he served in the Army. But with all of Washington D.C.'s red tape and bureaucracy, it is hard even for our elected officials to get a look at the books. One underlying truth comes to light in all of this: This is the taxpayers

money! Good stewardship demands that it be managed wisely and spent cautiously, not thrown about willy-nilly for someone's pet project.

Let's think for a minute about how your offerings are spent at St. Michael's. Our government officials should always keep in mind that this isn't their money. It is the taxpayer's money. Likewise, we need to remember that when our church members give offerings, it is a gift they have donated to support the Lord's work. More importantly, these offerings are ultimately God's money. Holy Scripture clearly says that everything on this Earth belongs to Him because He created it. *"For the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."* (Psalm 24:1) *"For every beast in the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills...the world and it's fullness are mine."* (Psalm 50:10,12) The question then becomes "How are we using God's money?" Are we using it in a way that our members would approve? Are we being good stewards of God's money, managing it wisely and spending it cautiously?

If you look at our church books, you aren't going to find thousands of dollars spent on ridiculous and wasteful projects. The biggest share of our budget goes to paying our many workers (pastors, teachers, and other staff members). Another big chunk goes to paying for utilities, maintenance, and upkeep of our buildings. Beyond that, we donate to

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April News 2025



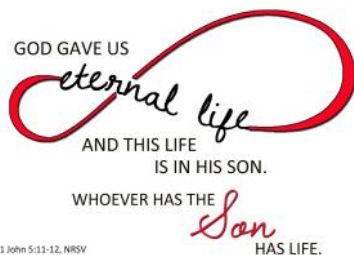
various mission products. Frankly, there have been a few times over the years when I questioned why we were spending money on something, but ultimately, that is the Voter's decision. I'll conclude this article by

- 1) Encouraging all our boards and committees to carefully examine all our expenditures to see where we can save money
- 2) Encourage everyone to look at their own offerings, remembering that God asks us to support His work and His ministry with our prayers, by volunteering, and by giving as He has generously given to us.

"For He who did not spare his own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32) As God's redeemed people we are tasked with proclaiming the life-giving Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is far more important than any government program! Money spent on worldly projects is only temporary. Money that is donated to the Lord's work reaches into eternity. The apostle John wrote: *"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."* (1 John 5:11)

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Gillaspie

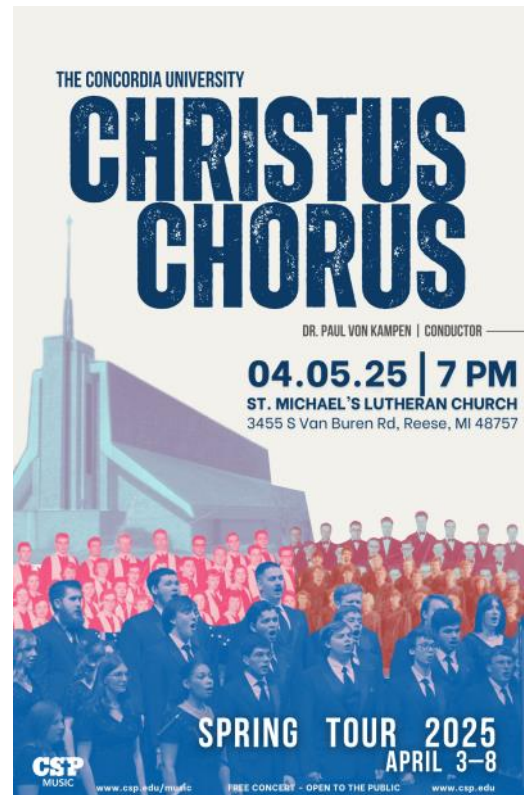


Easter Egg Hunt

The Board of Discipleship along with the ECC will be

hosting a community Easter Egg hunt on Saturday April 12th beginning at 10:30 meeting at the Park Hall.

We are seeking donations of plastic eggs, candy and small trinkets. Please place all donations in the labeled tub in the Narthex, and contact Sara Knea or Lori Powell with any questions.



Concordia St. Paul Choir Tour

Concordia University St. Paul's flagship choral ensemble, the Christus Chorus, will be performing a free concert at St. Michael's Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 7 PM.

The choir, under the direction of Dr. Paul von Kampen, is embarking upon their annual spring tour and will perform in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Join us as we celebrate 98 years of choral music at CSP with an evening of sacred and secular music, including pieces by Felix Mendelssohn, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gwyneth Walker, and more!



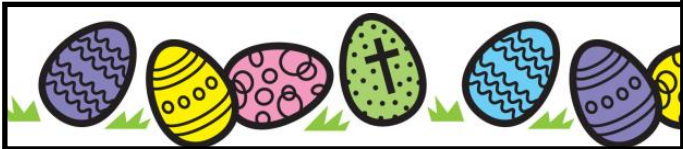


Congregation Milestone!

Our St. Michael's Lutheran Church will be celebrating it's **175th Anniversary** of our founding in 1851.

We are looking to form a committee to plan activities for 2026 and seek members who wish to help with the planning. Please feel free to contact Scott Wenzel at swenzel@airadv.net or (989)245-9679.

Let us give God the glory and plan to mark this occasion to honor Him!



Passion Drama

It's almost here, this years Passion Drama has been under preparation for a few months now, with that being said we will have some changes to this years drama. We are adding a last supper scene to start the story. We are also adding dialog to be more detailed. We are still in need for more volunteers to help. There is still time to sign up. Secondly, I have heard multiple times that "I saw it the first year" a lot of changes have been made since that first year. We've come a long ways in the last 24 years to what our performance is now. Just some things to think about this Easter Season. Any questions feel free to ask, call or text 989-529-7734, or email stmichaelpassiondrama@gmail.com.

God Bless ,

DJ Weiss



Gifts and Memorials In Memory

Colleen LaBeau

Home Purpose—\$25.00

Courtney Callahan

School—\$150.00

Home Purpose—\$1,665.00

In Honor

In gratitude for reaching the age of 75, a gift was given by *Wayne Hecht* to Home Purpose.

The world
and its desires
pass away.
but whoever
does the
will of God
lives forever.
1 John 2:17 (NIV)

Mark your calendar! for the *Spring Little Dresses Sewing* session. It will be Saturday, May 3rd from 9 am until 4 pm. More information will be coming on this volunteer opportunity. Thank you .

CPR/AED/First Aid Training

The Board of Elders is organizing some basic medical training for our ushers, staff, and any other embers willing to learn these life-saving skills.

Tom Meyer, with Covenant Healthcare and current mayor of Frankenmuth, will lead the sessions at no cost (unless a member wants a wallet-size CPR certification card).

Sessions will likely last 90 minutes, and will take place on Saturdays and Sunday afternoons.

Watch for sign-up sheets in the foyer coming in March.



Community-Wide Prayer

As the 2025 national Day of Prayer approaches on May 1st, plan now to join thousands of individuals from communities across the nation in prayer for our leaders and country. This year's theme is "Pour Out to the God of Hope and Be Filled." based on scripture from Romans 15:13

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope".

Frankenmuth area residents will meet for prayer and praise to God on the front lawn of the Frankenmuth City Hall (240 W. Genesee Rd.) at noon, Thursday, May 1st.

Area citizens have been invited to lead in prayer for Government, Family, Churches, Business, Education, Media, and the Military. Some chairs will be available, or you may bring your own. The fire hall next door will be open in the event of inclement weather.



Youth Group

Cemetery Board

The Cemetery Board is looking for bids to mow the church cemetery this year. Please submit your bids to the church office.

Call **Ron Kern** at 989-414-0963 if you have any questions.



ST. MICHAELS YOUTH MINISTRY

EGG MY YARD

Fundraiser!

Order your filled eggs to be hidden in your yard Saturday April 19th after 8:00 pm to be ready for Easter morning!

	25 EGGS	\$20
	35 EGGS	\$25
	50 EGGS	\$35
	75 EGGS	\$50

All proceeds help us fund our trip to the LCMS National Youth Gathering this summer

To guarantee your spot, bring your order form to the school office by Friday April 11th

OR

scan this code to complete the order form online

email sknea@stmichaelsrichville.org with any questions



Lutheran Laymen League

We will be going to see Al Reinert's antique tractor collection **Monday April 21st.**

The address is 4750 S. Gera Road.

Please meet at **5:30 at the Park Hall** to car-pool.

Peat Moss Sale

It's time for the annual Lutheran Laymen's League Peat Moss Sale.

The 2-day sale will be at the church parking lot

Friday, May 2nd noon-5 P.M.,

Saturday, May 3rd 9 a.m.-noon.

The price is the same as last year, \$4.50/bag, and buy 10 get 1 free. Order early to assure you get the amount you want.

To order/information, contact

Mark(989)280-1166

Or Jim(989)670-1710

The Peat is an excellent soil conditioner for your flower beds and garden soil. It will make your gardening more pleasurable.

This sale is sponsored by Thrivent financial.

Thanks for your support,
St. Michael's LLL
Mark Schiefer & Jim Hecht

Prayer Pal Party

The Prayer Pal Party for all 8th grade students and their prayer pal will be,

Thursday, April 24 at the Park Hall.

Please be there around 5:45 p.m.

An invitation will be put in your church mail box.



Sisters of Ruth

Sisters of Ruth will meet the

SECOND Wednesday, April 9.

We will order pizza for noon lunch. Ice cream will be provided for dessert. Plans are still being worked on for May. We will possibly be going to tour the Frank-enmuth Woolen Mill in the morning. We will have lunch at a place to be determined. We will have more details when we meet April 9.



Blood Drive

Blood Drive at the Park Hall

Tuesday, April 8th from 1 to 6 p.m.

Making appointments is appreciated by calling 1-866-642-5663.

We hope to see YOU there, giving the gift of life.



Mary Martha Guild

All women are invited to join a fleece tie blanket event on:

Monday, April 7 at 7 P.M.

at the Park Hall.

Please bring scissors. Drinks and refreshments will be provided. The blankets will be donated to the Tuscola County Homeless Coalition. *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10.*



**Mary Martha
Rummage Sale:**

Friday April 4: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday April 5: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

Board of Outreach – Report for December, 2024-January, 2025

Chairperson: Pam Mossner

2024 Thrivent Projects

- Diapers & Formula for family
- Christian Books
- Hygiene products for Mustard Seed in Saginaw
- Kids Blankets for children in need
- Socks for children in need
- Cleaning & Hygiene products for Vassar Food Pantry
- Women's Coats for "Kelly Loves Christmas 4 Kids" event
- Kids' Coats for "Kelly Loves Christmas 4 Kids" event
- Baby Ministry - Mother
- Baby Ministry – Baby
- Kids blankets & books for Vassar Food Pantry to hand out at Christmas
- Christmas gifts for the elderly
- Supplies for "Kelly Loves Christmas 4 Kids" event
- Christmas Gifts for kids in need
- Christmas snacks for Veteran Food Pantry
- Christmas gifts for kids in need
- Groceries for Vassar Food Pantry

Food/Supplies/Other Ministry Purchases (A donation of \$5,000 was given to Outreach from Lynn & Vic DiBerardino to take care of families in the month of December. These projects would not have been possible without their generous support.)

- Bought two bed frames for two children.
- Took a family to Culver's for supper (they were very excited to all be going out to dine together).
- Took a family shopping and bought them groceries.
- Bought gas for someone.
- Bought a pair of work boots for a guy in Flint.
- Bought food for a family of three.
- Bought food for a family of two in Flint.
- Bought and delivered dinners for Thanksgiving to nine families.
- Bought chocolate milk, whipped cream for their pies, and toilet paper for nine families.
- Bought Christmas Eve dinners for six families.
- Bought poinsettias for foster families.
- Bought groceries for a family of two in Saginaw.
- Wrote a Thrivent card for a family to have Christmas lights.
- Bought gas for someone.
- Paid \$250 for someone's rent.
- Bought a lift chair for a home in Bay City.
- Sent food to a family in Flint
- Sent food to a family in Millington

- Gave a Kroger gift card for 200.00 to a family in Reese
- Sent a gift card to someone in Vassar
- Dropped off two gift cards to someone for groceries
- Sent food to Tammy. When she asked how Pam knew she needed food, Pam replied, "God told me."
- Sent food to a family in Flint
- Sent food to a family in Vassar
- Sent food to a family in Flint
- Bought eight heaters for people in Flint
- Bought \$250 gas card for family of Levi Hershey
- The Frankenmuth Credit Union Foundation for Our Communities awarded a grant for \$1,000 to Board of Outreach, as part of their "Feel The Warmth" campaign to purchase food and/or to be used toward warmth programs to help needy families.
- Purchased the following for Franklin Avenue Mission diner: a pencil sharpener, 20 packs of crayons, 20 packs of colored pencils, 20 Easter tablecloths, 20 Easter centerpieces (through use of Thrivent cards).
- Purchased 2 microwaves and an Instant Pot for people at Franklin Avenue Mission.
- * Sent food to a family in Flint.

Christmas Projects

- New this Christmas season, Outreach supported The Caring Closet in Saginaw (replacing the Wellspring Family Service project done in the past). It is open to families in need and everything they collect is given to them for free. The first annual "Kelly Loves Christmas 4 Kids" event, held December 4th, where children can shop for their family members in need, was a huge success. Over 200 children were able to shop for their families; the excitement on their faces was priceless!
- The Giving Tree was again set up in the church foyer with slips for a variety of items in a range of prices. Overall, giving was down, but the amounts received were:
 - \$ 40.00 Tuition
 - \$ 675.00 Gift Cards
 - \$1,030.00 Hot Lunches for Students
 - \$ 250.00 Donated by Greenstone, Bay City office, for food
 - \$1,995.00 Total
- A group of 22 kids and adults traveled around the area to sing Christmas carols, stopping at multiple houses of St. Michael's church

members. Some of those that we visited are considered shut-ins and were gifted a Christmas basket with treats, household items, and a homemade ornament made by the children. It was a chilly night, but everyone had a wonderful time spreading Christmas cheer! This project was done by Carmen Matthews.

Baby Ministry

- * Bought 10 boxes of diapers, 10 boxes of wipes, cards, and 20 outfits.

Miscellaneous

- The digital church sign went up on December 16th
 - * Paid Frankenmuth News invoice for annual ad listing our church services.
- New member: Carmen Matthews has joined the Board of Outreach.

Thank-You Acknowledgements (Partial List)

- A thank-you card was received from the children in KidzMin, for purchasing and helping assemble gift bags for shut-in members for Christmas.
- David was a recipient of money. He is someone we help in Flint. He lives in a house with no heat. David wept when he opened his card and saw the money. It has been so very cold in his house and now it will be a little warmer for Christmas, and his belly will be full.
- Tammy lives with her grandson (whose mother, Tammy's daughter, was murdered). Her family has gone through unbelievable tragedy. She thought no one cared anymore and was very grateful for help.

✝ Financial Report as of		02/28/25	
MISSIONS			
Missions Collected YTD	Goal \$50,000	\$	35,062.75
Non Budget Missions Collected YTD		\$	1,593.00
HOME PURPOSE			
		MTD	YTD
Home Purpose Balance as of	7/1/2024		\$ (291,939.09)
Home Purpose Income		\$ 95,162.96	\$ 1,241,062.07
Home Purpose Expenses		\$ 117,685.61	\$ 1,034,480.78
Thrivent Choice in-H.P.	\$ 5,148.00	\$ (22,522.65)	\$ 206,581.29
School Income		\$ 3,742.06	\$ 109,823.75
School Expenses		\$ 2,615.40	\$ 59,884.43
		\$ 1,126.66	\$ 49,939.32
Child Care/Preschool Income		\$ 54,644.64	\$ 449,130.62
Child Care/Preschool Expenses		\$ 54,762.70	\$ 439,863.84
Thrivent Choice in Childcare	\$ 48.00	\$ (118.06)	\$ 9,266.78
Home Purpose Balance (includes Child Care/Preschool/School)			\$ (26,151.70)
New Construction Balance as of	7/1/2024	MTD	\$ (18,215.51)
Income	Goal \$25,000	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 24,032.72
Expenses		\$ -	\$ -
New Construction Fund Balance		\$ 1,080.00	\$ 5,817.21
Franklin Ave Mission	Goal \$5,000	\$ 260.00	\$ 3,185.00
Capital Improvement Balance as of	7/1/2024	MTD	\$ 160,870.93
Collected	Goal \$80,000	\$ 1,850.00	\$ 23,438.10
Expenses		\$ (216.93)	\$ 36,916.82
Capital Improvement Balance		\$ 2,066.93	\$ 147,392.21

St. Michael's Lutheran Church
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