



CONNECTING People To Jesus

St. Michael's of Richville, Michigan

Are You “Going” To Church?

One of the most exciting nights I had this winter was when I went to the Michigan vs. Michigan State basketball game on January 30th. The Breslin Center was really rocking that evening. It was a hard-fought game, and when it was over the Wolverines prevailed 83 - 71. As a Spartan fan I was disappointed, but you have to give credit to the Wolverines. They have an excellent basketball team. Players like Trey McKenney, Elliot Cadeux, and Yaxel Lendeborg could carry them all the way to the Final Four.

If you saw me a day or two after the game you might ask if I had good seats. Was I in the upper deck or the lower deck? Were the tickets expensive for such a big game? Did I have trouble finding a parking space? If I told you that I went to the game by watching it on TV you would wonder what in the world I was talking about. Watching at home is not the same as being there. When you are at the game you can cheer (or boo) with the crowd. You can watch the players go through warm-ups. You can wander around the concourse of the Breslin Center and grab a pop or buy a sweatshirt at one the souvenir stands. But if you are at home watching on TV you can't do any of those things.

You can probably see where I am going with this. Ever since we turned the calendar to 2026 we've had quite a few Sundays and some Lenten

Wednesdays where church attendance was rather disappointing. Yes, we've had some days that were snowy, icy, and bitterly cold. But we've also had some nice days, and attendance still lagged. Yes, a number of us have had colds and flu. We all have those crazy-busy weeks when we just need a couple of days to rest up. Believe me, as the sole pastor of St. Michael's most of my weeks are like that! I am very thankful for those who attend church regularly. I realize that a lot of people can't be here every Sunday. But when 75% of our members are not in worship, what does that say about our commitment and discipleship as God's redeemed people? When whole families are not in church for a month or more, how is that affecting them spiritually?

I can't help but wonder if some of our members find it easier to stay home and watch it on their computer or tablet. A few might even say that's the same as "going" to church. However, that's no different than me saying I "attended" a basketball game by watching it on television. There is no fellowship looking at a computer screen. The Lord's Supper is not received electronically. We can't raise our voices together in praise if we aren't actually together.

I wish I didn't have to write this. But every pastor is

(Continued on page 2)



April News 2026

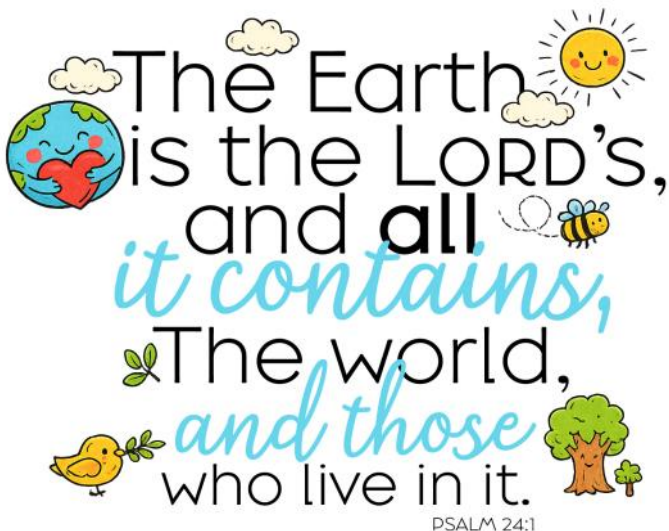


called to “preach the word in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and careful instruction.” We are to “teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.” The Bible says to “stir up one another to love, not neglecting to meet together.” If I saw worship attendance dropping and said nothing, then I would not be doing what I was called to do.

Yes, God demands worship. He expects it. He requires it. “Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.” But worship is not an empty ritual where we go through the motions. Here our gracious God comes to us in the pages of Scripture and the comforting words of the Gospel to assure us we are His forgiven and redeemed people. He hears our prayers and assures us that “even the hairs of your head are numbered.” I’ve lived long enough to know that any one of us could have our lives taken from us suddenly and unexpectedly. What a gift of God to know that a joyful and glorious eternity awaits us! I encourage everyone to spend time in prayer and ask yourself, “What can I do to grow in faith towards my Savior Jesus? What goals can I set to be in God’s house more often?” Hebrews 2:3 reminds us to not “neglect so great a salvation.”

CHURCH
What's missing?
UR (you are)

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor
Gillaspie



Gifts and Memorials *In Memory*

- Larry Putman
 Home Purpose—\$75.00
 School Sports—\$500.00
 175th Anniversary—\$3,968.00
- Melvin Hochthanner
 Church Music—\$30.00
- Mildred Keinath
 Church Music—\$30.00
- Vicki Ball
 175th Anniversary—\$25.00
- Lewis Abraham
 175th Anniversary—\$305.00
- Luella Buchinger
 Home Purpose—\$215.00
- Dennis Fischer
 Church Music—\$100.00
 School—\$20.00
- Robert Heinlein
 Home Purpose—\$215.00
- Fred Kern
 175th Anniversary—\$40.00
- Lorraine Smith
 Home Purpose—\$50.00
- Patricia Reinbold
 Home Purpose—\$50.00
- Dennis Fischer
 Music Fund—\$90.00
 School—\$915.00
 5 Gideon Bibles

In Honor

- Jim Doud’s 90th Birthday
 - a donation was made to Home Purpose from him and his family.
- Arlene Wirth’s 90th Birthday
 - A gift has been given to the 175th Anniversary
- Jean Rodammer’s 70th Birthday
 - a gift was given to the 175th Anniversary by Jim & Chris Church



A Place to Belong

Psalm 122:1: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

In 1941, during the congregation's 90th anniversary celebration, members first began considering the need for a larger church and started a building fund. Formal planning began at the Voters Meeting in December of 1965, and the proposal for a new church building was approved the following March. With the plans in place and the congregation united in this vision, work toward a new church home could finally begin.

After years of meetings, planning, and careful consideration, a groundbreaking service was held in May of 1969. Later that year, during the annual Kirchweih Fest, the cornerstone was laid. Inside the cornerstone were items that reflected that moment in the congregation's history, including hymnbooks, photographs, newspapers, and other pieces of the church's history.

By early 1971, the congregation gathered for a special service of entry, walking into their new church home for the very first time. But the vision for this building was never just about space. The planners and builders hoped to create a structure that would both serve the congregation's needs and reflect the faith and heritage of the community around it. The low, sloping rooflines were designed to echo the flat farmland of Frankenhilf. The nave was arranged in a fan shape so worshippers could sit together "as a spiritual family about the altar." Above the altar stands the figure of Jesus, symbolizing His constant presence among His people, and recalling the image of Christ that once graced the altar in the old church.

For fifty-five years this building has held the life of this congregation. Within these walls, generations have been baptized, confirmed, married, and remembered. Prayers have been spoken, hymns have been sung, and the Word of God has been shared week after week. The congregation who built this church did so with faith that it would serve not only their generation, but the generations that would come after them.—and 55 years later, that faith continues here.

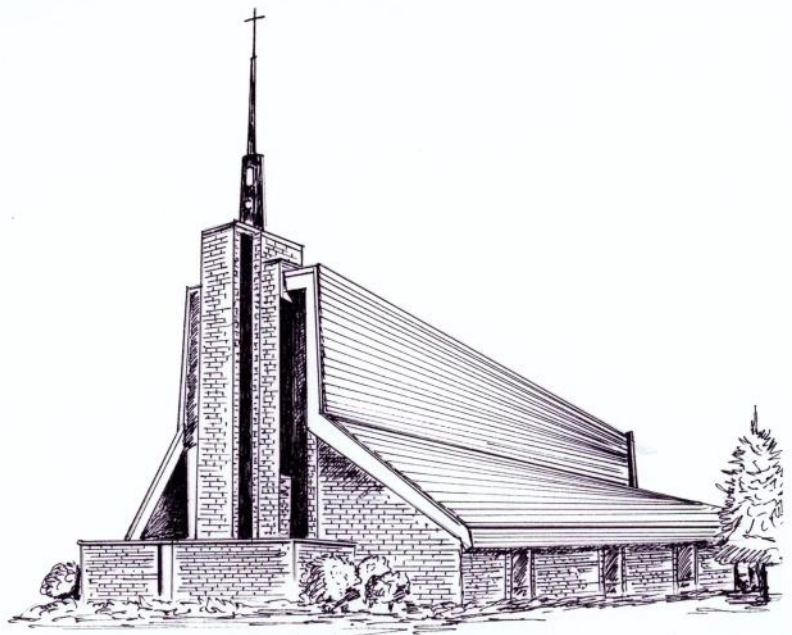
To God Be The Glory—Celebrate 175 Years!

Events

- * Passion Drama—April 3rd & 4th
- * Mother's Day BBQ—May 10th
- * School Picnic—May 31st
- * Vacation Bible School—July 13th-16th
- * Golf Outing—July 25th

Guest Pastor Schedule

- * June 21st— Pastor Bruce Kischnick
- * July 26th— Pastor Larry Courson
- * August 16th—Pastor Steve Hess
- * German Service—Pastor Mark Loest
- * September 27th—Pastor Rob Gadeken
(Celebration in the Park to Follow)
- * October 18th— Pastor Andrew Howe
- * November 15th—Pastor Aaron Schian
- * December 20th— Pastor Brad Hubbard





at the Park Hall

Tuesday, April 7th 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.



Little Dresses Sewing Ministry

will have a spring sewing day on *Saturday, April 18th from 9 am to 4 pm at Mary Reinbold's house.*

Plan for a potluck lunch at noon. Come at whatever time works for you. We need people for sewing, ironing, or other tasks. These dresses are used by St. Michael's students to be placed in girl's shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

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

We invite you to give this ministry a try and join us for some good fellowship.



Mary Martha Guild



April 10th
9 a.m.— 5 p.m.
& April 11th
9 a.m.— 1 p.m.

Collection dates

April 6th ; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. &
April 7th; 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
(No collection on Wed.)

Bring your donations to the Richville Legion Hall (items like clothing, toys, sporting goods, furniture, decor., etc.)

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

Franconian Zone LWML

Rally & Ingathering

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Registration/Breakfast
8:30am.....Fee \$10

Trinity Lutheran,
9858 North St, Reese

☑ Bible Study

☑ Speaker: *Mrs. Pat Hambaum* will talk about her past and recent mission trips to Taiwan

☑ Ingathering: Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Please bring NEW twin-size comforters and sheets+mattress protectors+pillows
Character bedding highly requested!



Easter Blessings

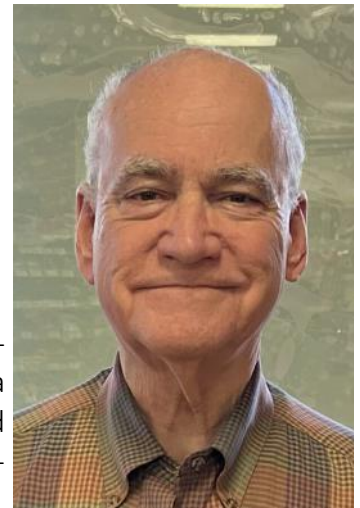
Lutheran Laymen League

Meeting

April 20th, 7 p.m. in the overflow room
w/ guest speaker—*Tom DePrekel*

Tom DePrekel is the chairman of the Camp Lulaylea Board of Directors. He attends St Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Frankenlust Township, Bay City, MI.

Tom was the past president of the St Paul's LLL Men's Club, and currently participates with the Saginaw Valley Zone of the LLL/ Lutheran Hour Ministry. Tom is a retired attorney. He is also an active participant in the KERYX Prison Ministry, and also volunteers with the National Guard's Michigan Youth Challenge Academy Retreat.



Our St. Michael's LLL

has a number of different activities scheduled throughout the year. We have monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month with various speakers or activities.

Here are a few examples:

Card party in March; Peat Moss Sale in May; Family Night in June; Steak Fry in July; Greenery Sale in November; Christmas Party with Mary Martha in December.

The funds raised through these activities is donated to a variety of Mission organizations. Here is a list of the groups that our LLL donated to in the last 2 years (2024 & 2025):

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Missionary Dan Conrad | \$1,938.00 |
| Camp Lu Lay Lea | \$800.00 |
| Saginaw Valley Lutheran Hour (Radio) | \$3,053.00 |
| Lutheran Hour Ministries | \$4,734.00 |
| St. Michael's Hot Lunch | \$1,213.00 |
| L.H.M. Rose Bowl Parade Float | \$400.00 |
| Missionary Steven Mahlburg | \$1,586.00 |
| L.B.T Becky Grossman | \$1,018.00 |
| Sleep in Heavenly Peace | \$785.00 |
| People of the Book Lutheran Outreach | \$738.00 |

THANK YOU to all who have contributed generously to enable our LLL to support these organizations. We currently have 40 LLL members and are always looking for mission-minded men to join our St. Michael's LLL.

Peat Moss Sale

It's time to order Peat Moss for this year. The St. Michael's Lutheran Laymen's League will be selling 40 lbs bags of clean organic peat moss. It works well for softening your garden and potting soil.

The price is \$4.50 per bag and when you buy 10 bags you get 1 free. The price is the same as last year.

Please order from Mark Schiefer at 989-280-1166 or Jim Hecht at 989-670-1710. The sale dates are

**Friday May 1, noon to 5:00 PM, and
Sat. May 2, 9:00 AM until noon.**

You may pick up your order at the Church parking lot at these times. If you need your order delivered, talk about it when you order.

This sale is supported by Thrivent Financial. The proceeds will be used to fund Lutheran Laymen's League Mission projects.

-St. Michael's LLL Peat Moss Committee



Lutheran's for Life

You are invited to LifeClinic Community Resources Fundraising Gala. The theme for this year's event is *"For Such a Time As This"* with keynote speaker Claire Culwell. It will be held on May 6 at noon and May 7 at 7 p.m. at the Great Hall Banquet and Conference Center, 5121 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642.

Doors open 30 minutes prior. A complimentary meal will be served and an opportunity to make a financial gift will be provided. Please RSVP before April 22, 2026 at LifeClinic.org/partners/events-fundraisers or by calling 989-922-5433. *"Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this."* Esther 4:14b.

Keynote speaker Claire Culwell is an International Pro Life Speaker and author of *Survivor: An Abortion Survivor's Surprising Story of Choosing Forgiveness and Finding Redemption*. She is a twin abortion survivor. Claire was adopted into a loving family and says that finding out she survived an abortion that was meant to take her life never changed who she knew she was: wanted, chosen, and loved. She has been featured on Fox News, Focus On the Family, Life Today, and many other media outlets. Claire lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband David and their children where she serves on the board of Texas Alliance For Life and her local pregnancy center.



EASTER EGG HUNT
Presented by St. Michael's Outreach

Right after late church,
April 12, 2026
St. Michael's Park Hall.

Age Groups: 2 & under • 3-5 • 6-9 • 10-14 (8th grade)
Prizes for all kids!
All are welcome! Bring a friend!

HAVE A HOT DOG FOR LUNCH

The poster features a central photograph of four children (two boys and two girls) happily hunting for colorful Easter eggs in a grassy park. The scene is framed by a decorative border with Easter eggs, a bunny, and flowers. A red circular badge in the bottom right corner of the photo area contains the text 'HAVE A HOT DOG FOR LUNCH' and an image of a hot dog. The overall design is bright and festive with a pastel color palette.



You make springs
gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between
the hills.

PSALM 104: 10, ESV

The illustration depicts a bright yellow sun in the top right, a blue cloud in the top left, and blue raindrops falling on the right. At the bottom, there is a pair of yellow rubber boots on the left and a purple umbrella on the right. The text is written in a blue, cursive font.

Benefit for Ben Dzioba— Euchre Tournament

Saturday, April 18th 2026

Frankenmuth Credit Union Basement,
Frankenmuth

Registration 6:15 p.m. ~ Euchre 7:00 p.m. sharp
\$20 entry fee — First-come/First served —

Snacks Provided — BYOBeverages—50/50 Raffle + Surprise Raffle

BRING YOUR QUARTERS for those times you get EUCHRED!



Donations can be made prior to the benefit by calling Donna Tedford (989)245-4992, Pauline Reinert (989)213-4045, or Larry Trinklein (989)239-1838
More information about the family can be found in the foyer on the bulletin board.

| Financial Report as of | | 02/28/26 | |
|---|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| MISSIONS | | | |
| Missions Collected YTD | Goal \$50,000 | | \$ 38,672.33 |
| Non Budget Missions Collected YTD | | | \$ 1,716.00 |
| HOME PURPOSE | | | |
| | | MTD | YTD |
| Home Purpose Balance as of | 7/1/2025 | | \$ (71,597.09) |
| Home Purpose Income | | \$ 116,155.93 | \$ 1,029,229.82 |
| Home Purpose Expenses | | \$ 127,002.86 | \$ 1,122,124.28 |
| Thrivent Choice in-H.P. | \$ 4,854.00 | \$ (10,846.93) | \$ (92,894.46) |
| School Income | | \$ 4,205.13 | \$ 48,784.55 |
| School Expenses | | \$ 2,850.23 | \$ 61,373.11 |
| | | \$ 1,354.90 | \$ (12,588.56) |
| Child Care/Preschool Income | | \$ 55,419.37 | \$ 468,143.27 |
| Child Care/Preschool Expenses | | \$ 64,218.60 | \$ 506,859.26 |
| Thrivent Choice in Childcare | \$ 190.00 | \$ (8,799.23) | \$ (38,715.99) |
| Home Purpose Balance (includes Child Care/Preschool/School) | | | \$ (215,796.10) |
| New Construction Balance as of | 7/1/2025 | MTD | \$ 12,690.88 |
| Income | Goal \$25,000 | \$ 775.00 | \$ 12,492.00 |
| Expenses | | \$ - | \$ 36.17 |
| New Construction Fund Balance | | \$ 775.00 | \$ 25,146.71 |
| Franklin Ave Mission | Goal \$5,000 | \$ 105.00 | \$ 4,025.00 |
| Capital Improvement Balance as of | 7/1/2025 | MTD | \$ 144,257.67 |
| Collected | Goal \$80,000 | \$ 5,395.66 | \$ 41,144.22 |
| Expenses | | \$ 79.34 | \$ 27,204.79 |
| Capital Improvement Balance | | \$ 5,316.32 | \$ 158,197.10 |

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

THE
PROMISE OF



Easter
NEVER FADES.