



CONNECTING People To Jesus

St. Michael's of Richville, Michigan

Administrative Pastor Call Update

The most recent call we extended to Pastor Lowell Sorenson for the position of administrative pastor was declined. On November 13th the Call Committee met and decided it was time to ask the Michigan District for a new call list.

Let me give you a bit of a review of where we are now. The list we received in May had the names of 15 pastors on it. When our circuit visitor contacted each of them to see if they would be available for a call, several of them said they were not. So that narrowed it down to 11 or 12 pastoral candidates. The Call Committee eliminated two more from consideration because they were over the age of 60. Since May, two of the pastors accepted calls to other churches, so they were no longer available. The committee interviewed a total of four pastors from the list, and we extended calls to three of them: Meyer, Conner, and Sorenson. All three declined. The committee felt that the few remaining candidates did not fit our needs, so that is the reason we are requesting a new list.

I can certainly understand why the members of St. Michael's might be getting a bit frustrated and impatient that this is taking so

long. We wonder why God can't just send the right man our way so we can have a full pastoral staff and move ahead. But we also need to remember that this is not only a divine process. This is also a very human process. Pastors have to give serious consideration to uprooting and moving their families to a new location. In most cases they have a deep attachment to the churches they are currently serving, and leaving that ministry behind can be difficult. We have called a total of four pastors, and each one of them had very good reasons for staying where they are.

In the meantime please keep the Call Committee and our congregation in your prayers. Many good things are happening: school enrollment is up this year. Our finances are doing okay, and hopefully will improve now that the harvest is completed and year-end contributions come in. We had a lot of baptisms in 2022, bringing more children into our congregation, and I had seven people attend my adult membership class this fall.

Time doesn't stand still. Life is always changing. And so the church continues to move forward with the blessing of our gracious God. We are entering a special and wonderful time of the year as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. We

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have already begun to sing those favorite Advent hymns, and we look forward to our Christmas concert and school program. Let's just enjoy this season and not worry about things that we can only leave in God's hands.

In the grace of Christ Jesus, our newborn King,

Pastor Gillaspie

Sisters of Ruth

We invite all widows to join us on Wednesday, December 7th. We'll go to Innovations in Richville at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and fellowship. Call Luann Hecht by December 5th so that we can let Innovations know how many we will have attending. Bring a friend and enjoy a delicious lunch and lively conversation .

Valley Lutheran Concert at St. Michael's

On the first Christmas, in a tiny town, the greatest miracle the world has ever seen was taking place: the God of the universe came to Earth as a simple baby. And the world was changed forever. On December 11 at 3:00pm, join the Brass, Handbells, and Choirs of Valley Lutheran High School at St. Michael's Lutheran Church as we celebrate the Savior who was born in a manger. We hope you will join us!



The Joy of Sharing

This year our St. Michael's Christmas project will once again be a "Giving Tree". There will be a tree in the church foyer that has tags with gift requests for you to choose from.

There are a variety of items to purchase in a range of prices and the names will be kept confidential. If you know of a needy person or family, contact *Pam (Jeff) Mossner*. You can also leave requests in a sealed envelope in the church office. Please consider taking a request tag to help people in our congregation and the surrounding area.

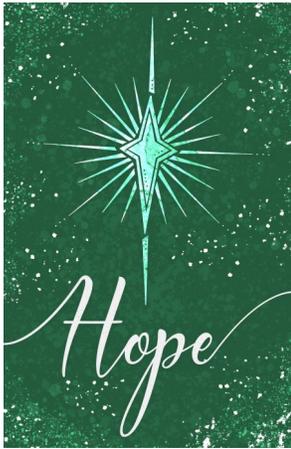
Gifts, gift cards or money must be turned in to the church office or to Pam (Jeff) Mossner by December 23rd. Thank you for sharing and caring.

Inclement Weather and Church Service Cancellation

On Wednesday, November 16th, we had snow and very icy roads in and around Richville. After consulting with our head elder, we decided to cancel worship that night. Later I realized that some of the surrounding areas had little to no snow, but by then we had already made our decision. I apologize if this inconvenienced anyone.

At the same time I also found out that WNEB channel 5 will no longer post church or business closings. (How nice of them!) WJRT channel 12 will continue to list church closings, so you can check their website or broadcast. You can also visit our Facebook page. Please don't hesitate to call me at the office (868-4791) or at home (262-8011) to see if we are having worship.

Pastor Gillaspie



“DO NOT BE AFRAID!”

Did you know that the words “fear not” appear nearly 150 times in the Bible? *(Quote taken from the upcoming school Christmas service.)* “Fear not” is often associated with the sudden appearance of an angel. All of them are messages from God to His people, delivered by a prophet, an angel, or by the Son of God Himself. In every instance, this message comes in a timely manner, to a people who are struggling in a sinful world. This message is for us!

The season of Advent is a season of hope and anticipation. We look forward to our yearly celebration of the coming of Christ as the babe of Bethlehem. We celebrate Jesus coming to us today through the means of His Word and sacraments. We anticipate His return on that final judgment day, when He will take all of us believers to heaven where we will live in His presence forever. “Fear not,” because God keeps His promises and has guaranteed a place in heaven for all of the faithful. “Fear not,” because Jesus came as an infant to fulfill the Father’s plan to save us all. “Fear not,” because Christ comes to us today!

An old English carol expresses this beautifully:

*Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave. Peace. Peace.
Jesus Christ was born to save;
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!*

As you come to God’s house this Advent season—and there are numerous opportunities to be in church—bring your fears, your concerns, and your cares. Listen to the Word proclaimed in readings, song, and sermon, and notice how that Word addresses your fears. Thank God that He has taken care of our greatest fears through the death and resurrection of His Son. Then rejoice in the hope of heaven that we share through faith in that Son!



Advent and Christmas Schedule



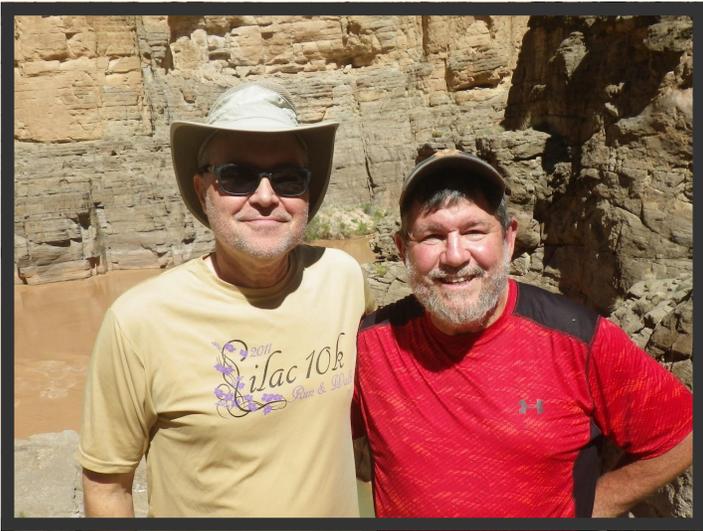
- Nov. 30, 7:00 Advent Wednesday Service
- Dec. 4, 3:00 St. Michael’s Christmas Concert
- Dec. 7, 7:00 Advent Wednesday Service
- Dec. 11, 3:00 Valley Lutheran High School Christmas Concert
- Dec. 14, 7:00 St. Michael’s School Christmas Service
- Dec. 18, 9:00 *Special Guest Speaker* at morning Bible Class
- Dec. 24, 4:00 and 7 p.m. Worship (4) Communion Service (7)
- Dec. 25, 9:00 Christmas Day Communion Service
- Dec. 31, 6:00 New Year’s Eve Service
- Jan. 1, 9:00 First Sunday after Christmas

Gifts and Memorials

Eugene and Nancy Palmreuter have given a donation to Home Purpose in thanksgiving for their 60th wedding anniversary on November 24th

Mary Foess: Park Hall tables and chairs—30.00

Glenn Mossner: School—100.00, Home Purpose—1,000.00; Park Hall New Construction—2,145.00



*Dr. Tim Clarey: Dinosaurs, Marvels of God's Design
Sunday Morning Bible Class*

December 18th, 2022

We are privileged to have **Dr. Tim Clarey** from the Institute for Creation Research return to St. Michael's to lead a Sunday morning Bible class on **December, 18th**. Dr. Clarey will be teaching on the topic of **Dinosaurs, Marvels of God's Design**. Come join us for this special event and hear how the dinosaurs fit in with God's Creation and the Flood of Noah. We will meet between services on the 18th.

Dr. Tim Clarey is originally from Auburn, Michigan. He earned a Ph.D. and B.S. (summa cum laude) from Western Michigan University, and a M.S. from University of Wyoming, all in geology. In between degrees, he worked for nearly a decade as an exploration geologist for Chevron. Then after obtaining his doctorate, he spent 17 years as a college professor. He has published numerous articles on the geology of the Rocky Mountain region. In addition, he has written and/or co-authored six books, including *Dinosaurs: Marvels of God's Design* and *Carved in Stone: Geological Evidence of the Worldwide Flood*.

Dr. Clarey currently works for the Institute for Creation Research (ICR) in Dallas, conducting research on Flood sedimentation patterns across the globe. He is married to Renee' Clarey and they have four grown children and four grandchildren (so far). Their favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11. Together they wrote two children's books called *Big Plans for Henry* and *Henry Explores the New World*.

Organ Fund Update



We have been raising funds for the releathering of our organ for a while now. A tremendous thank you to all of you who have contributed to this fund. We are getting close to our goal!

The pipe organ works because pressurized air, created by a blower elsewhere in the building, is released through a selected pipe at the command of the organist. This pressure is maintained by sealing the air ducts and wind chests (the boxes that the pipes sit on) with leather seals. The average lifespan of this leather is fifty years (and this organ was installed in 1971—you can do the math).

We have an estimate for a complete releathering at a cost of \$85,900. As of the end of October we have raised over \$70,000. We are very close to our goal!

We thank God for the organ which leads us in singing God's praises! We also thank God that He has continued to bless our congregation with the resources necessary to continue the work of proclaiming His name in the world. Again, thanks to those who have contributed this far. All are encouraged to help us get 'over the top' with this funding.

On behalf of the Cemetery Board and the congregation, we extend a sincere "Thank you" to:

Dan Bauer and sons for removing the pine tree stumps

Bob Bickel for burning the stumps and hauling away years of accumulated wire and plastic from wreaths and grave blankets.

Dave Gephardt and the crew from Bierlein Trenching for installing a drain tile in the cemetery

All of their volunteer efforts, time and equipment is truly appreciated!!!

Stewardship Minute

"I don't have time—I'm too busy!"

We often speak of stewardship as managing our "Time, Talents and Treasure". This month we'll focus on our "Time" As we go about our busy lives and especially this month during the Christmas season, it's wise to consider our time and how we use it or abuse it.

TIME is precious! It's a finite thing., We can't manufacture a single moment. It's given to us in limited quantity by God. Only He knows the length of our days. Since God controls how much time we have left to serve Him, let us be a fruitful steward in which to honor Him and to give Him the glory. So, how are YOU doing? Are you using the time given to serve others or is it mostly to serve self-interest? If we're honest about it, we usually waste much time. Let's list some of our "Time Wasters". You may be able to list many more.

Time Wasters

- Unproductive TV, internet, games, phone
- Unclear goals and priorities
- Failure to plan our daily activities
- Personal disorganization and lack of self-discipline
- Unclear communications
- Spending time on low-value and unfocused activity

Time Gainers

- Begin the day with prayer, praying often during the day
- Make use of daily "to-do-list"
- Plan your day the night before
- Make daily notes. Carry a notebook or digital notebook
- Do physical exercise for more energy
- Have written goals to focus your energy
- Don't procrastinate! Do it, delegate it or DUMP it!
- Group your activities together—especially when traveling about.
- Get your needed rest every day.
- Take time to mediate and to refresh your mind, body and spirit.
- Work collectively with others when possible.

Remember: TIME is irreversible and irreplaceable. How we use the time we have should be of very high importance. Steward it well and give it respect and honor, for it is truly a gift from God. It's good to be busy doing the things for God and others. May this Christmas season bring much joy to your busyness. Serve with Gladness!



Area Events

Living Nativity at Immanuel, Frankentrost. Friday, December 2 from 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. Experience the sights and sounds of Bethlehem on the blessed night when Jesus Christ was born. A free 30 minute walk outdoors.

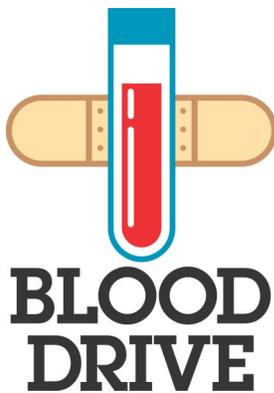
Justified Quartet will perform at Corinthian Chapel in Munger on December 4 at 5 p.m. , free will offering will be received. Sponosred by Trinity St. James, they request that you bring an unexpired canned

food item to benefit the Trinity St. James Christian Caring Friends Food Pantry.

The Promises of Advent will be presented by Good-Shepherd Lutheran, Saginaw on Saturday, December 10 at 4 p.m. A dessert reception follows the evening of music and fellowship.

Breakfast With Santa will be held on December 10 from 8 to 11 a.m. at Trinity St. James in Munger. No cost to have breakfast with Santa, get a picture taken with him and tell him what you want for Christmas.

† Financial Report as of		10/31/22	
MISSIONS			
Missions Collected YTD	Goal \$50,000		\$ 18,983.00
Non Budget Missions Collected YTD			\$ 356.00
HOME PURPOSE			
		MTD	YTD
Home Purpose Balance as of	07/01/22		\$ 53,862.98
Home Purpose Income		\$ 99,020.61	\$390,700.76
Home Purpose Expenses		\$ 125,803.77	\$461,659.48
Thrivent Choice in-H.P.	\$ 341.00	\$ (26,783.16)	-\$70,958.72
School Income		\$ 5,803.75	\$60,790.11
School Expenses		\$ 1,228.90	\$38,707.50
		\$ 4,574.85	\$22,082.61
Child Care/Preschool Income		\$ 48,019.41	\$214,576.07
Child Care/Preschool Expenses		\$ 42,600.58	\$166,124.29
Thrivent Choice in Childcare	\$ -	\$ 5,418.83	\$48,451.78
Home Purpose Balance (includes Child Care/Preschool/School)			\$ 53,438.65
NEW CONSTRUCTION			
		MTD	
New Construction Balance as of	07/01/22		\$255,095.71
Income	Goal \$250,000	\$ 5,300.00	\$22,270.00
Expenses		\$ 2,701.28	\$4,211.28
New Construction Fund Balance		\$ 2,598.72	\$273,154.43
Franklin Ave Mission			Goal \$5,000
			\$1,980.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT			
		MTD	
Capital Improvement Balance as of	07/01/22		\$179,071.42
Collected	Goal \$80,000	\$ 3,915.00	\$13,175.34
Expenses		\$ 2,498.21	\$4,947.99
Capital Improvement Balance		\$ 1,416.79	\$187,298.77



Blood Drive at church on Tuesday, December 6th from 1 to 6 p.m. We will have pizza and T-shirts available.

Making appointments is appreciated (so they can maintain safe distancing) by calling 1-866-642-5663 or Nancy Schluckbier.

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

WINTERFEST 2023

The Media Center is getting ready to host the annual Winterfest Auction! The date will be Saturday, February 18, 2023. As always, we will be accepting donations from the congregation, but we would like to get you all involved also! We would like to know what it means to you to have a Christian Education? How has it benefited you? We will be placing some paper leaves for you to fill out and drop in a box starting in January. We will be using these for decorations. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Leslie Brown at 989-868-4809.



Auction

Puzzle!

The word list contains the angel's Christmas message to the shepherds. Fit those words into the crossword squares. Then write them on the correct lines below to complete Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

Word List:

be	baby	that	today
do	been	this	afraid
all	born	town	Christ
for	find	will	cloths
has	good	bring	manger
joy	Lord	David	people
not	news	great	Savior
you	sign	lying	wrapped

“ _____ . I _____
 24 26 1A 5 3A 8 13 18
 of _____ the _____
 4 27 16 9A 1A 2D 7 15
 _____ in the _____ of _____ a _____
 12 28 23 20 22 1D
 _____ to _____ ; he is _____ the _____ .” Luke 2:10-11, NIV
 3D 8 19 10

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



For
to us
a child is
born, to us
a son is given.

Isaiah 9:6