



CONNECTING People To Jesus

St. Michael's of Richville, Michigan

Herman Sasse - "The Lie"

Herman Sasse was a Lutheran theologian, pastor, and professor during the mid-20th century. Born in Germany, he was one of the first Christian leaders who spoke out against the Nazis. He became friends with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was martyred shortly before WWII ended. Sasse survived the war and moved to Australia afterwards. He taught at Immanuel Seminary in the Lutheran Church of Australia.

Sasse wrote a number of books, and his lectures and essays have been extensively published. One of his most famous quotes is printed below. It was written in 1936 as part of a longer essay called *"Union and Confession."* Sasse realized that the Nazis were lying to the world and lying to themselves and, as a result, plunged the world into its most horrific period ever, with unprecedented genocide and bloodshed that cost the lives of tens of millions. He wrote these words:

"The lie is the death of man, his temporal and his eternal death. The lie kills nations. The most powerful nations of the world have been laid waste because of their lies. History knows of no more unsettling sight than the judgment rendered upon the people of an advanced culture who have rejected the truth and are swallowed up in a sea of lies. Where this happens, as in the case of declining pagan antiquity, religion and law, poetry and philosophy, life in marriage and family, in the state and so-

ciety — in short, one sphere of life after another falls sacrifice to the power and curse of the lie. Where man can no longer bear the truth, he cannot live without the lie. Where man denies that he and others are dying, the terrible dissolution [of his culture] is held up as a glorious ascent, and decline is viewed as an advance, the likes of which has never been experienced."

When I read this for the first time I thought, "Good grief, he's describing what's happening in the United States." LCMS President Matthew Harrison referred to this Sasse quote recently, pointing out how our own culture persists in telling and believing the most ridiculous lies like, "Women can become men and men can get pregnant." "Trans women are women." You probably have a emoji of a pregnant man on your phone. There was one pre-loaded on to my phone, along with hundreds of other icons. This completely contradicts human biology. Yet, people believe the lie (or they believe the deceptive ideology behind it).

"Marxism and Socialism haven't been given a fair chance. It will work if we just keep trying." Marxism has been tried over and over again, and fails miserably every time: brutal oppression and economic failure in the Soviet Union, millions dying in China's Great Leap Forward, the confiscation of private property under Fidel Castro, and Cambodia's Killing Fields tell the real story. *"The Killing Fields"* - a mov-

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ie released in 1984 - is a motion picture every American should watch.

"Children don't need to be raised by a mom and a dad." "Police forces started out as slave patrols." "Legalizing drugs will solve the problems of crime, addiction, and treatment." "Abortion is a human right." "All white people are racist." We hear these persistent lies over and over again. God's Word warns us about the dangers of believing lies and falsehood. St. Paul wrote, "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy." Sadly, it seems that many political and cultural leaders in our nation are becoming what Herman Sasse warned against. The people who repeat and believe these lies view our society's decline "as an advance," and part of the "glorious ascent of our culture."

The need for the Biblical message of Law and Gospel, sin and grace, the Commandments and forgiveness through faith in Christ Jesus has never been greater. Our Savior said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life."* Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father, *"Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth."* We live in a world where people believe the most absurd things because it's trendy or because they are committed to a deceptive ideology. Sometimes people hear a lie repeated over and over again, and they assume it must be true. Part of our calling as God's people is to speak the truth to a world that desperately needs it. The real truth is that we are sinful people, separated from God and deceived by the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. But God sent His Son into the world to redeem us from it and ultimately take us out of it by His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. Jesus promised, *"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."* Free from falsehood, free from error, free to live as God's people, and free from sin, death, and hell.

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Wes Gillaspie

Mary Martha

LWML Franconian Zone Summer Potluck
@ St. Paul Lutheran Church, Millington, MI.

Wednesday, July 23, 5:30 registration

Bring a dish to pass for the potluck. In gathering for Vassar Food Pantry, non perishable food items.

Gifts & Memorials

In Memory of

Calvin Zwerk

Missions—\$10.00

New Church Doors—\$35.00

Cathy Weiss

Missions—\$10.00

Keith Bierlein

Missions—\$10.00

Home Purpose—\$130.00

New Church Doors—\$140.00

School Athletic Fund—\$30.00

In Honor Of

Tim & Alice Bierlein's 50th Anniversary

- a gift was given to the Endowment Fund

Rolland & Nancy Wenzel's 65th Anniversary

-a gift was given to Home Purpose

In Thanksgiving To

God for His blessings on 30 years of ministry at St. Michael's, Pastor and Ann Gillaspie have made a donation to Home Purpose.

Lutheran Laymen's League

Meeting

Saturday July 19th

Lutheran Laymen's League will take a field trip to *Dyna Engineering* in Millington. Dyna makes wood processing machinery. Please meet at the Park Hall at 10 AM to carpool. Men and women are invited.

Lutheran Laymen's League

Annual Steak Fry

Monday July 21st

Our annual Steak Fry at the Park Hall. Dinner is at

6:00. This is also our membership drive night.

Former DNR officer *Cameron Morrow* is our speaker, along with the Chippewa Nature Center. Please RSVP:

Don Bierlein (989)529-5661





Thank You For A Great Day!

All my life I've heard people say that the older you get, time seems to go by faster. How true! April 2nd, 1995 (the day I was installed as pastor) doesn't seem like it was

that long ago. During those 30 years I have been blessed to serve with many fine pastors, vicars, teachers, school principals, music directors, secretaries, and so many others that it would be hard to list them all. As I spoke with church members after worship and in the Park Hall, I realized how many men in this congregation have served on the Board of Elders, and even more people who have been chairmen, on the School Board, Trustees, along with all the other boards, committees, and assorted volunteers. It really has been a rewarding and remarkable experience to be a part of the many facets of ministry here at St. Michael's! Our congregation has been a blessing to our family. Our two sons - Erik and David - received a excellent Christian education at St. Michael's, and attending Valley Lutheran H.S. was an added bonus. Ann enjoyed being in the Choir, Passion Drama, and Child Care over the years, along with other activities. Thank you for a special day on June 29th! - *Pastor Gillaspie*

St. Michael's Mother's Day Chicken BBQ—A Magnificent Success! *VOLUNTEERS* – We Couldn't Have Done It Without You! Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our amazing volunteers, this year's Mother's Day Chicken BBQ was a huge success! From start to finish, everything ran smoothly—and we owe it all to YOU. Cupcake Crew, Saturday Morning Helpers, and Everyone Who Lent a Hand You made it happen—thank you! A special Thank You to Kay Buetow BBQ Pit Crew A huge thank you to our BBQ Pit volunteers—we received so many compliments on the delicious chicken! Special recognition goes to Tim Bierlein for your incredible organization and for rallying the crew. The BBQ Pit truly ROCKED! Sales & Drive-Thru Team You kept the line moving quickly and safely. Great job ensuring everyone got their meals with ease! Kitchen Crew You were fabulous, dependable, and worked non-stop behind the scenes making food and supporting the line. We're so grateful! Serving Line Superstars You're the coolest crew around serving up 1,532 containers without missing a beat! Runners This year a special thanks to the Tony Rodammer Family & Bickel Girls for expertly running the front—we couldn't have done it without your leadership! Community Volunteers Thank you to those who may not

belong to St. Michael's but generously gave their time to help us—we're incredibly grateful. Safety Thank you to Richville Fire Department for keeping everyone safe! Sponsors & Supporters A heartfelt thank you to: Frankenmuth Credit Union; Vic & Lynn DiBerardino; Norm's Market; Cake That; Vassar Building Center; St. Michael's Endowment Thrivent; Shoprite; The Mossner Families We're thrilled to share that we sold 1,532 meals and raised \$15,000! All proceeds will benefit St. Michael's. See you next year, we can't wait to work alongside you again! With sincere gratitude, *Connie Mossner, Pam (Mark Mossner), Roxane Mossner, Pam (Jeff Mossner)*

Lutherans for Life of Michigan hosted its annual Diaper Shower from Mothers' to Fathers' Day. This year we at St. Michael's collected 1,832 diapers and 416 wipes. The pregnancy resource centers Life Clinic Community Resources in Bay City and Positive Alternatives in Caro are so grateful for our very generous support which we give them throughout the year. They are able to put these items out in their blessing boutique for the parents who come to them for help. Your donations helped them stock many larger sized diapers that they were in great need of. It is thanks to generous hearts like yours that these organizations are able to get diapers on the bottoms of babies in our communities who need them most. Thank you for supporting them and the moms, dads, and babies in our communities. May God bless you and your families abundantly! I want to say **"Thank you!"** so much for all of you for your support for the Lutherans for Life efforts every year here at St. Michael's. Please continue to pray for all who are working for LIFE. There is so much work that needs to be done especially with the new laws and rulings done regarding abortion and public opinion on abortion. *Dianne Stresman, Lutherans for Life Life Ministry Coordinator*

St. Michaels Mary Martha Women in Mission wishes to thank everyone for supporting their Flower Sale in May. If you ordered flowers or helped with the sale in any way it was very much appreciated. Proceeds went to support St. Michaels School Tuition Assistance, LCMS Disaster Response, Operation Christmas Child, St. Michaels Youth Group.

Sisters of Ruth will *not* be meeting in July. Please watch the bulletin for August. Let Luann know if you have any suggestions.

✝ Financial Report as of		05/31/25	
MISSIONS			
Missions Collected YTD	Goal \$50,000	\$	47,500.50
Non Budget Missions Collected YTD		\$	3,290.00
HOME PURPOSE		MTD	YTD
Home Purpose Balance as of	7/1/2024		\$ (289,408.25)
Home Purpose Income		\$ 91,748.02	\$ 1,591,278.87
Home Purpose Expenses		\$ 161,466.04	\$ 1,418,866.83
Thrivent Choice in-H.P.	\$ 7,781.00	\$ (69,718.02)	\$ 172,412.04
School Income		\$ 6,336.12	\$ 126,401.99
School Expenses		\$ 4,370.93	\$ 74,917.77
		\$ 1,965.19	\$ 51,484.22
Child Care/Preschool Income		\$ 58,395.32	\$ 633,927.83
Child Care/Preschool Expenses		\$ 88,492.15	\$ 646,618.39
Thrivent Choice in Childcare	\$ 124.00	\$ (30,096.83)	\$ (12,690.56)
Home Purpose Balance (includes Child Care/Preschool/School)			\$ (78,202.55)
New Construction Balance as of	7/1/2024	MTD	\$ (18,215.51)
Income	Goal \$25,000	\$ 2,070.00	\$ 29,699.72
Expenses		\$ -	\$ 8.33
New Construction Fund Balance		\$ 2,070.00	\$ 11,475.88
Franklin Ave Mission	Goal \$5,000	\$ 60.00	\$ 3,627.00
Capital Improvement Balance as of	7/1/2024	MTD	\$ 160,870.93
Collected	Goal \$80,000	\$ 5,602.00	\$ 39,268.35
Expenses		\$ 3,300.00	\$ 60,649.61
Capital Improvement Balance		\$ 2,302.00	\$ 139,489.67

Vacation Bible School Registration

Epic Australian Adventure July 14-17 (Mon-Thurs).

There is an optional free dinner from 5:15pm to 5:45pm. The program starts at 5:45pm and ends at 8:00pm. Bible lessons, snack, music, games and crafts are included. Ages are potty trained prek to 6th grade. We are also in need of parents to lead the groups from room to room.

Please register your child or sign up to volunteer **by July 1st** to make sure you receive a VBS tshirt. Kids need not be a member to attend.

Register online here: <https://vbsmate.com/events/stmichaelrichvillevbs/31113>

Get your newsletter
through email,
contact the church office
to go paperless!

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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