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

The Divine Call

We are at an important juncture in our ministry here at St. Michael's. Mr. Chaveriat has accepted the call to serve as principal at Central Lutheran School in Rochester, MN. We are in the process of calling a new music director. Mr. Eyster is retiring at the end of the school year, and we welcome Jennifer Smith as a new teacher this fall. With that in mind, I'd like to explain why we extend "divine calls" to our pastors and teachers. Does the Bible speak of a divine call? What does it mean? How is it different from a secular occupation? Those are all excellent questions.

First of all, the office of Pastor is instituted by God. God established the holy ministry (along with the auxiliary offices of Teacher, Missionary, Director of Christian Education, Director of Parish Music, etc) to carry out the public preaching and teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. Ephesians 4:7-13 states *"But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it...It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of service..."* Acts 20:28 says, *"The Holy Spirit has made you overseers."*

The ministry of the Gospel is different than all secular occupations (accountants, nurses, carpenters, mechanics, etc) because ministers carry out *"the affairs of the church...especially those whose work is preaching and teaching."* (I Timothy 5:17) That's why we say our church workers are not merely hired but rather called, because this is a sacred work.

Does this mean that pastors and teachers are holier than everyone else? Do they make up a class of super-Christians? Not at all! While St. Paul says that the ministry is a "noble task" and that ministers should be "above reproach," that does not make them better than anyone else. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23) That includes church workers. All of us "daily sin much" as Luther wrote in the Catechism. The "holiness" of the holy ministry does not come from the men and women who fill its offices. Rather, it is called "holy" because God has established it as His work of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, each congregation has the authority to call its own pastors and teachers. Acts 6:1-6 says the whole church in Jerusalem chose a group of deacons to carry out part of the ministry there. Also, in II Corinthians 8:19 St. Paul refers to an unnamed pastor or elder as being *"chosen by the churches to accompany us."* That's why each congregation - not the Synod or some other person or group - can chose to call its pastors and teachers.

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Notice that the divine call comes through the church. While a person may believe that God wants him or her to serve as a church worker, that inner feeling is not the same as a divine call. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest field."* (Matthew 9:37-38) A young man or woman may believe that this is where God is leading them and, after the proper training and education, they are then eligible to receive a call. (Of course, sometimes we extend a contract to a teacher if that person does not have the necessary credentials through our Lutheran Church.)

Now for some practical issues. How does a pastor or teacher decide whether to accept or decline a call? They should prayerfully consider the needs of their current church or school, along with the church/school that has just called them. A call to a new position does not invalidate or cancel the current call! Both must be equally considered. Church workers should seek the advice of church leadership and other pastors or teachers, along with denominational leaders, to determine where their gifts and talents could best be used. They can also consider the needs of their families, such as their children's education, health issues, and so on. While a church worker should never make a decision based solely on money, the congregation should make sure that adequate salary is provided, for *"the Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should receive their living from the Gospel."* (I Corinthians 9:14)

Because this is a sacred work, every call should be given serious consideration. Calls should not be accepted or declined simply because "it's too cold there," or "I don't like that part of the country," or "this call could be a stepping-stone for a better position." Likewise, a call to a new location should never be used as a bargaining chip to get a change in a job description, an increase in salary, more vacation time, etc. Church workers hurt the reputation of the ministry when those things happen.

When a church worker receives a call, it is important that they tell the congregation, preferably at the next worship service. In the secular business world you don't have to inform your employer that you are looking for a new job. But in the Church we must be transparent. A divine call is a sacred agreement to carry out the Lord's ministry. If a church worker receives a call to another church or school, his/her current church should be notified so they can offer encouragement and pray for the worker.

At St. Michael's we have been blessed with many faithful workers over the years, and the ministry of both Mr. Chaveriat and Mr. Eyster is appreciated and will be missed. May the Lord be with them in their future endeavors, and may He grant us new workers for His harvest field!

Your co-worker in Christ,

Pastor Gillaspie

CALL ON HIS NAME

PASTOR GILLASPIE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

A time to celebrate!

Our Pastor Wes Gillaspie is marking his 30th year of ministry at St. Michael's Lutheran Church this year.

The congregation is invited to celebrate this milestone immediately ***following the June 22, 10:30am outdoor service*** with a meal served in the Park Hall, The Board of Elders will be grilling bratwurst and hot dogs, beverages will be available, and side dishes created by Norm's Market will round out the meal.

Pastor Gillaspie was born July 2, 1959 to Robert and Joy Gillaspie in Fairfield, Iowa. He graduated from Fairfield High School in 1977, earned a bachelor of arts degree from Concordia University – River Forest in 1981, and a master of divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne, in 1986. He completed his vicarage at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Crookston, Minnesota in 1984-85, served congregations at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fairview, Kansas; and Zion Lutheran Church, Powhattan, Kansas, from 1986-1995. He was installed at St. Michael's Lutheran Church April 2, 1995. Pastor Gillaspie married his wife, Ann, August 23, 1980, and they have two adult sons, Erik and David.

Please join us in thanking God and Pastor Gillaspie for his faithful service to our congregation!

Lutheran Laymen's League

LLL Family Night

June 16th, starting at 5:30

Our guest speaker will be

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Meal after 6:00 p.m. Watch the bulletin for more information!

Thank You to everyone that supported the LLL Peat Moss Sale.

Thank you to Thrivent for their support . We will be sending a donation to support The International Lutheran Hour Ministries and Becky Grossman Bible Translators. She and her African based team are translating the Bible into the languages and dialects of countries there.They have been helped immensely by the innovations of technology. which makes it important to receive these donations.

New Members At St. Michael's

We have received a number of new members to our congregation since the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. Some of these families have children in our school and child care, and we are blessed to give them the opportunity to receive a Christian education. Since last fall we are happy to have these new members:

- Pastor Knea and Sara, children Josh, Joe, and Jesse
- Jason Strunk and Kelly Lich, children Lilly and Lucas
- Garrett and Brianna Troike, children Emmarie and Eisley
- Morgan and Zach Walker, children Nixon and Vanessa
- Nikki Zimmer and son Emersyn
- Justin and Rachelle Hecht, children Brielle, Myla, and Kinley
- Loren Daenzer
- Damien and Erika Bristow

Please welcome them when you see them in worship and at school!

Congratulations to our 2025 Graduates:

Makenna McCloud
(Vassar High School)
- daughter of Craig & Melissa McCloud
&
Wheatley Rodammer
(Valley Lutheran High School)
-son of David & Michelle Rodammer

for being awarded the Doug Gruber Athletic Memorial Scholarships for St. Michael's Church & School.

This college scholarship is for $1500 each, and Makenna & Wheatley's names will be placed on a plaque located at the Doug Gruber Memorial trophy case at the front entrance of St. Michael's Lutheran School.

Also, congratulations to
Peyton Will—2025 Graduate of Reese High School & daughter of Sarah Willette & Joseph Will.
for being awarded the Doug Gruber Athletic Memorial $1500 Scholarship for Reese High School.

Peyton's name will be placed on a plaque located by the Reese High School Gymnasium.

Congrats again to Makenna McCloud, Wheatley Rodammer, and Peyton Will

-Dennis & Vickie Gruber

Statewide Diaper Shower

sponsored by Lutherans For Life of Michigan

May 11th (Mother's Day) through June 15th (Father's Day], 2025

Lutherans For Life of Michigan is again sponsoring a statewide Diaper Shower to help local pregnancy care centers. This annual project encourages and supports local pregnancy resource centers throughout our state.

Every Lutheran congregation in Michigan is encouraged to collect disposable diapers on the Sundays between Mother's Day [May 11] and Father's Day [June 15]. Disposable diapers of any size may be placed in the box in the foyer. We will then deliver them to Positive Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center in Caro and LifeClinic in Bay City. The centers are always so appreciative of these gifts for mothers and children in need.

Thanks for your participation in this outreach project. We praise God for these Christian ministries and the help they give to women and their unborn children. Thank you also for your generosity in this annual Diaper Shower. Praising our risen Lord Jesus for the NEW life He has won for us.

Dianne Stresman
Life Ministry Coordinator
Lutherans for Life of Michigan

Tuesday, June 10th
1 to 6 p.m.
at the Park Hall
Make your appointment
by calling 866-642-5663
Or by visiting Versiti.org

Gifts & Memorials

In Memory Of:

Charles Keinath
School Picnic Fund—$25.00

Nancy (Auernhamer) Klopf
School—$225.00

Calvin Zwerk
Home Purpose—$155.00
New Church Doors—$3,015.00
Hot Lunch—$110.00
Child Care—$55.00
Endowment Tuition Assistance—$3,035.00

Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, June 1st, we will be celebrating our 8th graders graduation from St. Michael's. They will be recognized in late service along with all of our high school and college graduates. Any high school and college graduates are invited to wear their robes and regalia to this service. Please check in with Mr. Chaveriat on arrival and proceed to the overflow room. We will process in as the service begins. Hope to see you there!"

June 1st @ 2 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

Outdoor Worship Services

June 22nd , 10:30 a.m.

(Pastor Gillaspie's 30th Anniversary!)

July 27th , 10:30 a.m.

August 24th, 10:30 p.m.

Please bring your lawn chairs and join us for Worship in the Park!

Each Sunday will be weather permitting.

SAVE THE DATE!

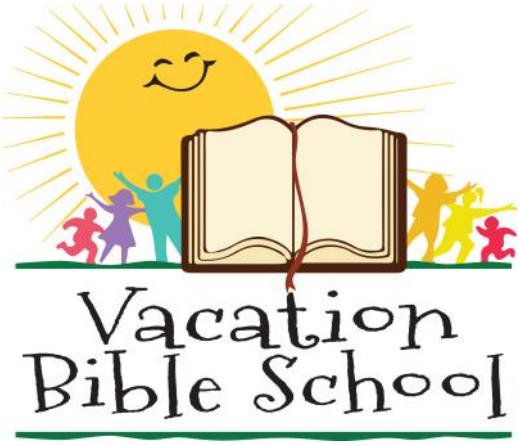
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 14th-17th

Dinner 5:15 p.m., class at 5:45 p.m.

Watch for more information in the church bulletin or on the church website:

www.stmichaelsrichville.org



Sisters of Ruth

Potluck

June 4th

@ 12 p.m.

Watch bulletin for more details.

✞ Financial Report as of			04/30/25
MISSIONS			
Missions Collected YTD	Goal $50,000		$ 44,744.75
Non Budget Missions Collected YTD			$ 3,280.00

HOME PURPOSE			***MTD***	***YTD***
Home Purpose Balance as of		7/1/2024		$ (292,072.94)
Home Purpose Income			$ 153,869.71	$ 1,499,530.85
Home Purpose Expenses			$ 100,636.91	$ 1,257,153.79
Thrivent Choice in-H.P.	$ 7,781.00		$ 53,232.80	$ 242,377.06
School Income			$ 3,525.60	$ 120,065.87
School Expenses			$ 6,632.94	$ 70,546.84
			$ (3,107.34)	$ 49,519.03
Child Care/Preschool Income			$ 64,999.51	$ 575,532.51
Child Care/Preschool Expenses			$ 61,822.97	$ 558,126.24
Thrivent Choice in Childcare	$ 110.00		$ 3,176.54	$ 17,406.27
Home Purpose Balance (includes Child Care/Preschool/School)				$ 17,229.42
New Construction Balance as of		7/1/2024	MTD	$ (18,215.51)
Income		Goal $25,000	$ 2,115.00	$ 27,629.72
Expenses			$ 8.33	$ 8.33
New Construction Fund Balance			$ 2,106.67	$ 9,405.88
Franklin Ave Mission		Goal $5,000	$ 212.00	$ 3,567.00
Capital Improvement Balance as of		7/1/2024	MTD	$ 160,870.93
Collected		Goal $80,000	$ 5,941.25	$ 33,666.35
Expenses			$ 19,998.93	$ 57,349.61
Capital Improvement Balance			$ (14,057.68)	$ 137,187.67

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

There is a really good car loan program through the LCMS email: autoloans@lutheranfcu.org.

Contact Pastor Knea for more information.

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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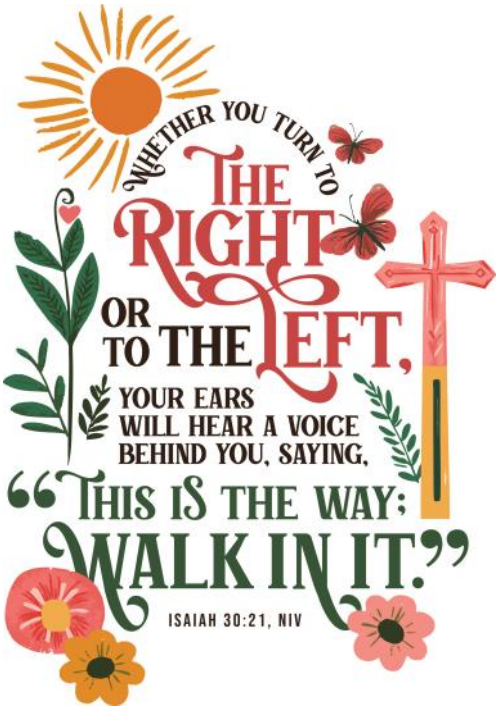
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