

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



# CONNECTING People To Jesus

St. Michael's of Richville, Michigan

## “Questions of the Passion”

The Lenten season is here, a bit earlier than usual. Because the date of Easter changes, Lent can begin anywhere from early February to early March. (More on that in a minute.) Lent is a time in the church year when we turn our attention to Jesus' suffering and death. As we consider all that our Savior endured - betrayed by Judas, abandoned by His disciples, arrested under the cover of darkness, pushed through a trial by prejudiced enemies, and disposed of by a Roman governor who was more interested in keeping the peace than administering justice - we remember that Jesus went through all that **to save us**. Our sins are the cause of Jesus' pain and misery. Our sins moved Him, out of love for us, to enter human time and space where He *'took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,'* for He was *"stricken by God, smitten, and afflicted, pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities."* Jesus paid that awful price we could not pay to reconcile us to God and open the doors of God's eternal kingdom of life, peace, and joy.

Because this is such an important time in the church year, we have special Wednesday night Lenten services. This year our theme is "Questions of the Passion." Each Wednesday night we'll look at a different question, asked either by Jesus or by those who were around Him. Here is our schedule for the coming weeks:

- **Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>** - *"Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?"* - Pastor Mark Brandt
- **Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>** - *"Shall I not drink the cup my Father gave me?"* - Pastor Mark Auernhamer
- **Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>** - *"Do you not think I can call on 12 legions of angels?"* - Pastor Wes Gillaspie
- **Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>** - *"Aren't you one of His disciples?"* - Pastor Mark Auernhamer
- **Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>** - *"If men do these things when the tree is green, what will they do when it is dry?"* - Pastor Wes Gillaspie

We will also follow this same theme for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday later this month.

Now, back to the question as why the date of Easter keeps changing. First of all, we remember that Jesus' trial, crucifixion, and resurrection all happened in the spring of the year, at the time of the Jewish Passover. So that gives us a place to start. So why don't we just celebrate Easter 3 days after Passover? Because we no longer follow the Jewish calendar. Passover was on the 14th day of the month of Nisan. But we don't go by the Jewish months anymore. So at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. (the same gathering that

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gave us the Nicene Creed), it was decided that Easter should always be on a Sunday, and that it would be the first Sunday after the first full moon which came on or after the first day of spring. Using this formula, Easter is always on a Sunday, and it is always in the spring of the year, just like in the New Testament.

Lent is a wonderful opportunity to remember how those tragic events 2,000 years ago impact us today, for God's mercy is from "everlasting to everlasting." I encourage and invite you to take time to worship this Lenten season.

In Christ Jesus,

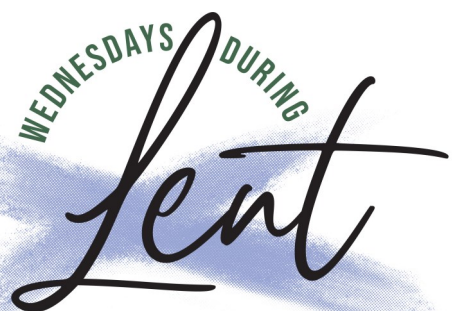
*Pastor Gillaspie*



## Lenten Suppers

Mark your calendar's for fellowship and food on **February 28th and March 6, 13, 20, 22, beginning at 5:30 pm.** A big thank you goes to the Child Care, PTL, Mary Martha, Adult Choir, and Lutheran Laymen's League for hosting the meals. Helping Hands fliers will be in your mail box at church in March. Please consider being a part of this ministry by volunteering your time. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Heinlein.

-The Board of Christian Service



## Passion Drama

We are a month away from this year's Passion Drama! This year we have planned it a week before Easter again, which will fall on March 22nd (6:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.) and March 23rd.(4:30 P.M., 6:00 P.M., & 7:00 P.M.) It will also be presented inside the church again this year. We still need lots of volunteers to make this a successful event. There will be sign up sheets in the foyer at church. Sign up sheets can be placed in the box in the foyer or in Joshua Doud's mailbox. We will still need a setup and take down crew, lots of cast members, soloists, and a lot of cookie donations.

If you would like to sign up through email, that notification can be sent to Josh Doud at [stmichaelspassiondrama@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelspassiondrama@gmail.com)

This is a great chance to show and remind the community of what Jesus did for us. We hope to hear from each and every one of you soon.

## St. Michael's School's Honor Roll/ Honorable Mention 2023-2024 School Year

Students listed below are to be congratulated for doing well academically. Those whose names appear in all capital letters had all "A's". Students receive an asterisk(\*) to denote each marking period of the current school year for which they have qualified for the honor roll and a pound sign (#) for each marking period as honorable mention.

### St. Michael's Lutheran School – 2nd Quarter Honor Roll: (3.50 or above)

Fifth Grade: Hoyt Pike\*\*

Sixth Grade: Brittany Bickel\*\*, Grady Fent\*\*, NATHAN HECHT\*\*, Luke Hoerlein\*\*, Eliza Lobodzinski\*\*, Kensington Morley\*\*, Eli Piazza\*\*, Remy Rodammer\*\*, Johnathan Schultz\*\*, Milla Thurston\*\*, Owen Welsh\*\*

Seventh Grade: Ava Callahan\*\*, Nataleigh Meyer\*\*, McKenna Mitchell\*\*

Eighth Grade: Brooke Bickel\*\*, Eva Hecht\*\*, Maya McCloud\*\*, Braelin Rodammer\*\*, Kaitlen Palm\*\*, Aiden Welsh\*\*

### St. Michael's Lutheran School – 2nd Quarter Honorable Mention: (3.00– 3.49)

Fifth Grade: Aubrey Baase#, Luke Bauer###, Brylee Bickel###, Lucas Bierlein\*#, Elaine Cook###, Lane Gebhardt#, Bradley Rodammer###, Wade Schlegel#, Kelsie Schlicht###

Sixth Grade: Ashlynn Eskelson###, Cole Heinlein###, Alaina Love\*#, Colby Swaffer###, Nolan Woodward###, Cooper Yeager###

Seventh Grade: Bella Daenzer###, Lillian Michalak###, Warren Schlegel###

Eighth Grade: Jaxon Franklin#



**Passion Drama Sign-up sheets for March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024.** These can be returned to Joshua Doud's Mailbox at church or emailed to [stmichaelspassiondrama@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelspassiondrama@gmail.com), or you can call 989-325-2059 to sign up. Please write names of volunteers in the box under your desired task(s)

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cast	Set up	Tear down	Cookies	Greeters	Kitchen
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-



**Prolife supporters:** Your help is requested by former Planned Parenthood clinic director Abby Johnson. She knows “insider” information that they don’t want you to know. She made national headlines by exposing Planned Parenthood’s abortion quotas, dirty conditions, barbaric practices and other atrocities. On October 6, 2009, she witnessed an ultrasound-guided abortion where the innocent baby tried to escape the abortionist’s suction tube. That baby - a boy - was fighting for his life. Due to that event, Abby left her job and exposed Planned Parenthood’s horrific secrets in the movie Unplanned – and it dealt a devastating blow to the abortion vendor. Abby realized that once she started speaking out, not only did other abortion industry workers listen – they also left their jobs out of disgust for what they’d been seeing. Over 30 workers leave within the first 3 months - and many more in years since Unplanned launched in 2019.

Abortion workers know exposing Planned Parenthood’s secrets is the key to its demise. They know the secrets. Dozens of former abortion industry workers and doctors tell their stories in a new movie Unthinkable and share about how abortion is hurting women and their babies. Former workers know:

- Every dirty secret held by the abortion industry so that innocent lives can continue to be sacrificed for profit.
- Women are being trafficked and their children killed for monetary gain.
- About the financial fraud, unsanitary conditions abortions are performed in, the uncredentialed abortion workers, the abuse of patients, and the neglect to care for babies born alive.

Abby is exposing more of Planned Parenthood’s secrets in her latest film Unthinkable which is being released in March. Her goal is to change the hearts and minds of abortion industry workers. Unthinkable has the power to dismantle Planned Parenthood by exposing even more of what’s happening within the abortion vendor’s walls –

and how much worse things have gotten since she left nearly 14 years ago. Approximately 3,000 people still work in the abortion industry. Changing the hearts and minds of abortion industry workers is how they hope to topple the abortion “Goliath”. Planned Parenthood is fighting hard to ensure this movie is buried along with their secrets. Abby Johnson started And Then There Were None – the only organization that works to dismantle the abortion industry from the inside out – to encourage and empower abortion industry workers to walk out and speak out against Planned Parenthood. To reach those workers and have the impact we need to deal the final blow to Planned Parenthood, Abby needs a few things from pro-life Americans. First, she needs your prayers. For the former workers about to go public, for the work done at And Then There Were None to support them, and for the success of this movie. This movie needs to be shown in as many theaters as possible when it launches. The more people who see this – especially those working in the industry right now – the greater the exodus when God changes hearts and minds. Perhaps even enough to see clinics close due to lack of workers. More than 680 workers have left since And Then there Were None started their work! With the damning information in Unthinkable, Abby expects even more to leave. Also call your local movie theater and ask that they show the film when it’s released this March. Finally any financial gift would also help And Then There Were None partner with movie theaters to bring Unthinkable to as many cities as possible. All of their work – from empowering workers to leave to launching powerful movie exposés like Unplanned and Unthinkable – boils down to one thing: making abortion unthinkable. Gifts can be sent to: Abby Johnson, And Then There Were None, PO Box 758623, Topeka, KS 66675-8623. The website to get more information is [www.abortionworker.org](http://www.abortionworker.org). Copies of her full letter are on the table in the foyer under the bulletin board.



In Rochester for an afternoon show and lunch at the White House Tavern **April 3rd**. The cost in **\$70.00**.

The bus will leave the church parking lot at 10 a.m., and we will be back between 6-7 p.m.

Call Nancy Schluckbier at (989) 529-0320.



## Vacation Bible School

**SAVE THE DATES:** July 8th - 11th evenings.

Volunteers are needed. More details will follow in future Sunday bulletins and Newsletters.



## Doug Gruber Memorial Sports Scholarship

St. Michael's high school 2024 seniors who participated in high school sports are now eligible for a \$1500 scholarship in memory of Doug Gruber. This scholarship is run and payable through Reese High School. Applications for this scholarship can be picked up at our church office starting March 1st and should be returned there by April 7th Contact *Dennis and Vickie Gruber* at (989)868-3684 if you have any questions.

## PASSION DRAMA INFORMATION AND SIGN UP SHEET ON PG. 7!

### 2024 Church Directory Update

We have already started taking pictures for our 2024 Church Directory!

To sign up for your picture to get taken, find the table in the church entrance, and sign up for a day that works best for you! The day of your picture, the photographer will have a sheet for you to fill out with basic information needed. (Members living within Assisted Living complex's and Nursing Homes will be scheduled for their photo shoots at their residence by Karen Zehnder, our photographer.)

If you have an existing church directory binder, you are more than welcome to use that again, or you can buy a new one for this new directory.

SNOWBIRDS - You can send photos and directory information to: [2024CDRichville@gmail.com](mailto:2024CDRichville@gmail.com)

Info required:

NAME(S) \* IF SPOUSE IS NON-MEMBER

Children names in birth order.

Address, Email, Cell Phone and or Home







Gifts. We give and receive gifts at Christmas, at birthdays, at anniversaries, on special holidays, and sometimes for no reason at all. You may recall that this past Advent our theme was about gifts, specifically the gifts that the Christ Child came to bring. The season of Epiphany, now a memory for 2024, was a time in which we 'opened' and examined the gift of that Christ Child; we heard of His miracles, His baptism, the calling of His disciples, and His teachings about the Father. We are now in the season of Lent, and preparing for a special time called Holy Week. So where has all of the talk of "gifts" gone?

Remember that Jesus is still giving His gifts to us. Every time we gather around His word and sacraments, He is there giving gifts of forgiveness, strengthening of faith, and eternal life. Jesus literally comes to us in a physical way through His body and blood in the bread and wine. We still receive His gifts, even if we have put our "alleluias" on hold during this season. Thanks be to God for His grace, through which He still blesses us with His gifts!

Holy Week comes at the end of March this year. This great week, in which we will walk with our Lord in actual time through the last week of His earthly life, is full of opportunities to learn again about the gifts that He gives us. We rejoice in His presence on Palm Sunday as He came into Jerusalem. We focus on the gifts given in His supper on Maundy Thursday. We focus on the gift of our salvation, earned for us by Him through His death, on Good Friday. We rejoice (with "Alleluia!") in the gift of His resurrection—which becomes ours through baptism—on Easter Sunday.

Throughout this more somber season of Lent, the Christmas Gift keeps coming! Thank God for His gifts! See you in church as we continue to celebrate these gifts!

*"On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus,  
King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may  
Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and  
salvation!"*

-Dr. Jon Eifert

## Lutheran Laymen's League

Thank you to everyone that supported the LLL Greenery Sale by buying wreaths and grave blankets. The greenery is a welcome addition to the otherwise drab landscape of the cemetery. Thank you to Thrivent for making seed money available to make the sale a success. A portion of the proceeds will go to Camp Lu Lay Lea, and St. Michael's campers will get a stipend.

Just a Reminder: It may not seem like it now, but it will be warmer, there will be Spring, and the LLL will be having there Peat Moss Sale!

## Gifts & Memorials

### In Memory

Larry Howell  
Missions—\$10.00  
Hot Lunch—\$20.00  
Park Hall—\$135.00  
Electronic Sign—\$150.00  
Home Purpose—\$130.00

Wanda Reinert  
School Music— \$50.00  
Missions—\$10.00  
Church Music—\$50.00

Loretta Daenzer  
Music— \$50.00

Gene Buchinger  
Electronic Sign—\$355.00  
Park Hall— \$400.00  
Home Purpose—\$40.00  
Endowment Fund—\$50.00  
Music—\$200.00  
Missions—\$10.00

Boyd Terry  
Park Hall—\$20.00  
Church Music—\$50.00  
Child Care—\$100.00  
Home Purpose—\$35.00

### In Honor

Rollie Wenzel's 90th Birthday  
-a gift was given to Home Purpose by his family

Anthony & Donna Bierlein's 40th Wedding Anniversary  
-a gift was given to Capital Improvement by Mike & Sally Sahr.  
- a gift was given to the Church Music Fund by Brian & Lois Bierlein.  
- a gift to Capital Improvement in thanks to God for our 40th Wedding Anniversary on 1/21/2024, and the blessing of a healthy family—Anthony & Donna Bierlein



## LLL Card Party

**Sat. March 9, 2024**  
2 pm with dinner at 5 pm  
St. Michael's School Gym

Sloppy Joes ~ Baked Beans ~ Dessert ~ Refreshments  
Drawings for door prizes

**Donation—\$9.00/person in advance  
or \$10 at the door**

Proceeds will go to sponsor the Saginaw Valley Lutheran Hour broadcasts on WSAM 1400 AM in Saginaw.

Tickets are available from any LLL member and at the door. Supported by Thrivent Financial

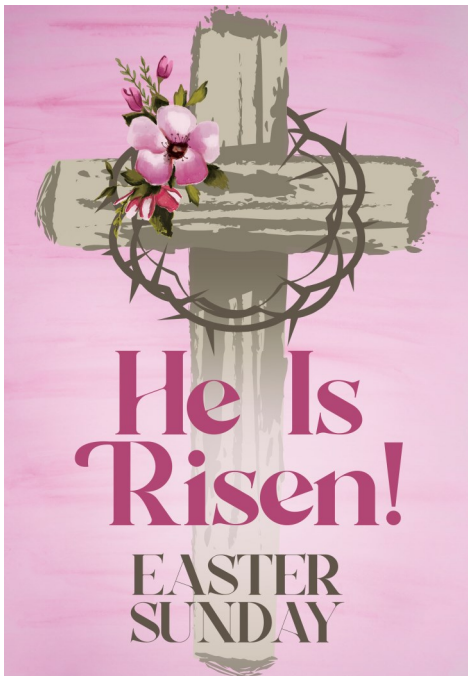
Call Eric Roedel 989-295-9627  
Wayne Bierlein 989-551-3011  
Earl Palmreuter 989-652-9747  
Jim Hecht 989-823-9252



**Sunday March 3rd is Lutheran Hour**

**Ministries Sunday.**

There will be a door collection in support of this ministry after services.



**Mary Martha**  
**MEETING**  
March 4th, 7 p.m.

A business meeting will take place, and then we will have a Fleece Tie Blanket Service Project to work on.  
See you there!

