



# CONNECTING People To Jesus

St. Michael's of Richville, Michigan

## The Busy Month of May



Ordinarily the busiest months in the Church are in December and March/April. The Advent season begins after

Thanksgiving, and calendars are filled with Advent worship, Christmas concerts, programs, rehearsals, Christmas dinners for various church groups, and of course, Christmas Eve and Day. Many of us especially enjoy this time of year as we sing those beautiful carols and hymns at Jesus' birth. From Ash Wednesday to Easter the Church enters another busy time. Special Lenten worship, Holy Week, and our Passion Drama engage many of our members as we proclaim a crucified and risen Savior.

May is its own busy season. As the days warm and lengthen we have a Flower Sale and Peat Moss Sale. The Mother's Day Chicken BBQ is another long-time event which involves many volunteers and raises

money for a number of charitable causes.

More importantly in May we turn our attention to the spiritual growth of our young people. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we have "Questioning Sunday" at our 7:45 service. We used to do the traditional questioning of the confirmands. But a few years back we changed that at my request. Now our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students write a paper on one of the many topics they've studied in the Scriptures and Luther's Small Catechism. The questioning of Catechism students is a point of Christian liberty, in that the Bible does not require or forbid it. My personal feeling is that our students have already answered many questions on tests, quizzes, and homework and have thus demonstrated that they have a sufficient knowledge of Christian theology.

Two weeks later on May 17th is Confirmation Sunday. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will kneel before the altar and promise to "be faithful unto death" and not fall away

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from their confession of faith. Please keep these students in your prayers as they will face many challenges and, at times, attacks on their faith in an increasingly secular culture!

We have other important events as the school year winds down. Preschool Graduation is May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. The School Music Concert is on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will receive their diplomas on graduation night, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. We wrap up the school year with the Picnic and Parade May 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:00. This year's Picnic and Parade will have some special features and activities as we continue to celebrate 175 years of God's Grace!

## Pastor Gillaspie



### Sisters of Ruth

will meet May 6th at noon.

Pizza will be ordered.

Please bring a salad or dessert.

## Gifts and Memorials In Memory

Larry Putman

175th Anniversary—\$150.00

Missions—\$10.00

Robert Heinlein

Missions—\$10.00

Lewis Abraham

Missions—\$10.00

Luella Buchinger

Missions—\$10.00

Dennis Fischer

Missions—\$10.00

Rolland Wenzel

Missions—\$10.00

Church Music—\$10.00

175th Anniversary—\$2,175.00

27 Gideon Bibles

Frankenmuth International Aid

Lutheran Hour Ministries

Kid Wishes Network

## Volunteers Needed!

We're looking for volunteers to help run our live stream during early service. No experience is needed—it's very easy to learn!

If you're interested in helping, please reach out to Kevin Sage 989-395-5579.

We'd love to have you on the team!



## Lutheran Laymen's League

### MEETING

Monday, May 18th —7 p.m.

**Our Guest Speaker: Tom Meyer** has the distinct honor of serving as Mayor of Frankenmuth following his election in 2024. He previously served on the Frankenmuth City Council, to which he was first elected in 2016. In his professional career with Covenant HealthCare, he focuses on life safety and the maintenance of accreditation, reflecting his commitment to safety and service. He also provides CPR and First Aid instruction throughout the year, continuing a legacy established by his father. Mayor Meyer is married to Rhonda Meyer, and they have two children, Katie DuRussel and Alex Meyer.



## Mary Martha Guild

### MEETING

Monday, May 4th

Program: Redemption Hill Ranch

Providing equine assisted therapy with a mental health and wellness focus. We will meet at church at 5:30 to carpool and return to church afterwards to enjoy refreshments.



*We would like to Thank everyone who made our sale a huge success once again. Special thanks to Vassar Building Center, for the truck and driver to take the left overs. There are so many others to mention so we will just say thanks to everybody.* -Mary Rummage Sale Committee.

## LLL Peat Moss Sale

As I am writing this item, the LLL has a lot of peat moss to sell. By the time you are reading this we probably still have some left to sell.

We have 40 lb. bags for \$4.50 ea.  
Buy 10 get 1 free.

For information/to order, please contact:  
Mark Schiefer 989-280-1166  
or Jim Hecht 989-670-1710.

The sale dates are:  
Friday May 1, noon to 5:00 p.m.  
Sat. May 2, 9:00 a.m. until noon.

You may pick up your order at the Church parking lot at these times or, if you need your order delivered, please mention it when you order.

This sale is supported by Thrivent Financial and the proceeds will go for Lutheran Layman's League mission projects.

We thank you in advance for your support.  
Jim and Mark—The LLL Peat Moss committee



# Flower Sale

**SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026**  
**8 AM - 12 NOON**  
**St. Michael's Lutheran Park Hall**  
**(next to school)- Richville, MI**

*Featuring*

- Al yssum-Be gonias- Calibrachoa- Dahlias
- Impatiens- Geraniums- Gerbera Daisy
- Marigold- Petunia (wave, super tunia)
- Salvia- Snapdragons- Verbena- Zinnia- Vines
- Spikes- Grass- Potting Plants and more.

Sponsored by Mary Martha with additional funding from Thrivent Financial. Proceeds benefit mission projects.

**Order Forms and Pricing**  
Pickup at St. Michael's Church  
Online: [stmichaelsrichville.org](http://stmichaelsrichville.org)  
Email: [sjanson102@gmail.com](mailto:sjanson102@gmail.com)  
Call or text: (Margie) 989-392-7947

(Leona) 989-868-4670, (Jan) 989-798-2051  
**ORDERS DUE May 10**



**ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL  
CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS**  
*School Theme: "You're a Piece of God's Plan" Jeremiah 29:11*



**Kindergarten –Mrs. Hoepfner and Mrs. Jammer**

Kindergarten and Preschool had our spring open house and met some of next year's students. Kindergarten is working on reviewing our long and short vowels and introducing digraphs. We are also working on subtraction. In social studies, we are finishing up our "Me on the Map" unit, where we learned all about our continent, country, state, town, and address. In Science we will be starting our unit on plants in the next several weeks.

**1st Grade - Mrs. Janson and Mrs. VanDeVeer**

1st graders are working hard to become ready for 2nd grade. We are starting our shapes unit in math and going to be working on some end of the year projects to show what we have learned this year. We have worked hard this year on growing our reading skills and I am really proud of how well our class has progressed in this particular skill.

**2nd Grade - Mrs. Doan**

The 2nd graders are learning to become 3rd graders. We did book reports but in fun ways like hanger mobiles and dioramas and acting out scenes from the book or bringing in objects that describe favorite parts of the book and lots of other creative ways to tell about our book. We are currently working on Flat Stanley which is a paper cut out character each student colored and gave or sent to someone who takes care of him for a while and sends back to the student with things like letters, postcards, maps, pictures, etc. of all the places he saw and things he did. We will next be working on our state posters and presentations. Each student will be assigned a U.S. state they have to find information on and present to the class (state flower, state bird, etc.). We are learning an introduction to cursive, also learning about money and time and fractions and soon even multiplication and division. We are finishing up our Religion work book and will soon be doing our catechism where we will learn the 10 commandments and the meanings.

**3rd Grade - Mrs. Bierlein**

In third grade we are finishing up the chapter on measurement and time in math class. Next chapter, we start geometry. In science, we have begun the next unit focusing on Earth and Space Science. We are starting the unit by talking about weather factors. In Michigan History we have been learning about the government of Michigan. I can't believe how quickly our year is coming to an end!

**4th Grade - Mrs. Knea**

The fourth graders are back at it after Spring break. We are reading "Charlotte's Web", tackling long division, exploring light and sound waves, and have started our state research projects. We're excited about the new experiences Spring will bring!

**5th Grade - Mrs. Krause**

In 5th grade we are beginning the Civil War in social studies and are very interested in learning about our own country's history. In science we are learning about resources and we love any time we have a lab that includes food. We are also learning about finding the RMS Titanic and reading the book *Exploring the Titanic*. We are looking forward to May and our 3 field trips-the Octagon Barn, the Loons game, and the 5th-8th grade trip to Henry Ford and Greenfield Village. We are also beginning to plan the annual CF Walk on Friday, May 22 at 1 PM at the school. Feel free to join us!

**6th Grade - Mrs. Woodward**

6th grade Science is finishing the unit on the Human Body and reproduction and will start a unit on Genetics and Heredity. 7th Grade Science is learning about the water cycle and then weather and climate. 8th grade Science is studying Physics and learning about Energy and Work. The 8th grade advanced math is learning about scatter plots and the 6th grade advanced math is learning about the area of shapes. In Religion, we are in a unit called Jesus Saves the World. It starts with Jesus' transfiguration and ends with Jesus' ascension into heaven.

**7th Grade - Mrs. Lamb**

For reading month the kids were treated to a daily "read and feed" thanks to the generosity of their families. We would read a book that had a food focus - for example "Sour Grapes" - and then had grapes for a snack. The kids loved this and it was a great addition to reading month. Congratulations to our 6th & 7th Graders for being the top readers in the school and 2nd highest in the nation. That is incredible!! 6th Graders are reading A Wrinkle in Time for Lit. Class. Our 7th Graders shined in our Chapel Service last week. The students who performed a skit were asked to memorize their

lines and they were scared but they knew them. The next big memorization is The Lord's Prayer in German! They can do it!! I can't believe we are in the 4th quarter. Time flies when you are having fun!

### 8th Grade - Mrs. Heinlein

This month, our students have been hard at work strengthening their grammar skills and growing as writers. We are practicing both argumentative and narrative essays, focusing on clear structure, strong evidence, and creative expression. We also enjoyed an incredible field trip to the Whiting Auditorium, where students experienced a live performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We had the unique opportunity to hear a student orchestra and watch a special ballet performance. A special thank you to Frankenmuth Credit Union for their generous grant. Because of their support, our classrooms now have interactive smart boards, mobile carts, and mini PCs. These tools will greatly enhance student engagement and support the development of important technology literacy skills.

### Resource Room - Mrs. Newton

Mrs. Keinath and I are working to finish the year strong! We switched some students in and some students out of the intervention program in February depending on the results of the mid-year reading screening done in January. We want to make the most of the last weeks of this school year. Let's all keep working hard!

### Media Center/Upcoming Events - Mrs. Brown

Happy Spring! We finished the National A.R Challenge on March 6, 2026 with the 7th grade class coming in 1st and the 6th grade class coming in 2nd place. Both grades finished 2nd in the entire nation! 6th & 7th graders were treated to an afternoon of pizza and bowling at Monitor Lanes in Bay City. Important dates to remember: Monday, May 11 is the last day to check out books from the library. All books need to be returned back to the library by Friday, May 22. If a student has books missing, notices will be sent home in effort to find the book. The last day to earn points for the 150% club for the final quarter is Friday, May 22. All points for the 150% club must be earned by that date or they will not count towards the student's total.

### AD

Winter sports came to an end with both of our A basketball teams traveling to Lutheran Westland for the Michigan District State Basketball Tournament. Both teams played well and moved on in the consolation side of the bracket. The boys won consolation champs. The girls won the Bruce Braun Sportsmanship award. Track practices have now begun and we will have our first meet on April 25. Go Raiders!!!

## Honor Roll/Honorable Mention 2025-2026

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 – 3rd Quarter Honor Roll: (3.50 or above)

**Fifth Grade:** Amelia Andrich\*\*\*, Avery Ellison\*\*\*, Grace Gebhardt###, Lily Heinlein###, Aliyah King###, Breslin Pike\*\*\*

**Sixth Grade:** Abel Bekemeier###, Addison Callahan###, Avery Hecht\*\*\*, John Hoornstra\*\*\*, Sutton Keinath\*\*\*, Charleston Morley\*\*\*, CAMBEL RODAMMER\*\*\*

**Seventh Grade:** Alexis Balcer\*\*\*, Brylee Bickel\*\*\*, LUCAS BIERLEIN\*\*\*, Elaine Cook\*\*\*, Madelyn Ellison\*\*\*

**Eighth Grade:** Brittany Bickel###, Grady Fent\*\*\*, Nathan Hecht\*\*\*, Luke Hoerlein###, Eliza Lobodzinski\*\*\*, ALAINA LOVE\*\*\*, KENSINGTON MORLEY\*\*\*, Eli Piazza###, Remy Rodammer\*\*\*, Johnathan Schultz\*\*\*, Milla Thurston\*\*\*

St. Michael's Lutheran School – 3rd Quarter Honorable Mention: (3.00– 3.49)

**Fifth Grade:** Remi Bauer\*, Tessa Papizzo###, Ryker Richards\*##, Ethan Thurston###

**Sixth Grade:** Ella Auernhammer###, Ruben Bierlein##, Caroline Lobodzinski###, Logan Love###, Peyton Sheppard#

**Seventh Grade:** Aubrey Baase##, Lane Gebhardt##, Brady Rodammer##, Kelsie Schlicht#

**Eighth Grade:** Ashlynn Eskelson#, Cole Heinlein###, Colby Swaffer#, Nolan Woodward#



# Mother's Day Chicken BBQ

Treat Mom to a delicious meal and let us do the cooking!

**Date:** Sunday, May 10, 2026

**Time:** Starting at 10:30 AM

**Location:** St. Michael's Lutheran School, 9444 W. Saginaw Rd., Richville, MI

**Details:** Drive-Thru Only

**Cost:** \$13 per dinner

## Dinner Includes:

½ Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,  
Dressing, Corn, and a Cupcake



*This year's Passion Drama was a great success! Just under 400 people witnessed the reenactment of Christ's final days, his crucifixion, and resurrection. This year was a bit of a milestone for the performance, as it started as part of the 150th church celebration, and here we are celebrating 175th this year of St. Michael's. We went down to the wire for cast members, but God blessed us with volunteers to fulfill all the positions. We would like to take a moment to thank everyone that helped make this possible, whether it was cast, cookie donations, greeters/ushers, setup/teardown, or kitchen. Everyone was greatly appreciated for volunteering and making this all come together. Thank you and God Bless. He is Risen; He is Risen indeed Alleluia!*

Co-chairman,  
D.J. Weiss and Josh Doud.



## St. Michael's YouthGroup Ministry's 2026 Corn HoleTournament Adult and Child Divisions Available



**When:** Friday, May 15, 2026

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Where:** St. Michael Lutheran School Gym  
(9444 W. Saginaw Rd. Reese, MI)

**Cost:** \$20.00 a team

To register please email the following information to  
[choeppner@stmichaelsrichville.org](mailto:choeppner@stmichaelsrichville.org) or text it to  
(989)327-4061 **RSVP by May 11, 2026**

Fun team name, names of each player, age of players, phone number, and an email address. We will have two divisions: 13 to adult and 12 and under (goes by the oldest player on the team). Prizes for the 1st & 2nd place teams.

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Rules and brackets will be emailed once registered. Cash or check only. Checks made out to St. Michael Lutheran Church and in memo put Youth Group Support. No credit cards. No smoking, alcohol, or pets please. There will be limited concessions available.

# Lutherans for Life of Michigan's Annual Diaper Shower is coming soon!

The project runs from Mothers' Day May 10 through Fathers' Day June 21,

Please bring in any size diapers (especially size 6 or any larger sizes if possible) and place them in the box in the foyer anytime from Mother's Day through Fathers' Day.



Even the smallest bear is big in God's care.

LifeClinic Community Resources in Bay City, a pregnancy resource center, is so appreciative for the support we at St. Michael's will give them.

We are an answer to their prayers.

Please join us for the Questioning of this Year's Confirmation Class!

Sunday, May 3rd  
7:45 a.m.

Confirmation Sunday:  
May 17th, 10:30 a.m.

We hope to see you there!



✝ Financial Report as of		3/31/2026	
<b>MISSIONS</b>			
Missions Collected YTD	Goal \$50,000	\$	42,966.99
Non Budget Missions Collected YTD		\$	1,766.00
<b>HOME PURPOSE</b>			
		<b>MTD</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Home Purpose Balance as of	7/1/2025		\$ (71,597.09)
Home Purpose Income		\$ 134,128.34	\$ 1,163,358.16
Home Purpose Expenses		\$ 134,857.56	\$ 1,256,981.84
Thrivent Choice in-H.P.	\$ 8,542.00	\$ (729.22)	\$ (93,623.68)
School Income		\$ 9,111.38	\$ 58,561.93
School Expenses		\$ 5,628.18	\$ 67,001.29
		\$ 4,149.20	\$ (8,439.36)
Child Care/Preschool Income		\$ 77,736.62	\$ 545,879.89
Child Care/Preschool Expenses		\$ 66,855.28	\$ 573,714.54
Thrivent Choice in Childcare	\$ 190.00	\$ 10,881.34	\$ (27,834.65)
Home Purpose Balance (includes Child Care/Preschool/School)			\$ (201,494.78)
New Construction Balance as of		MTD	\$ 12,690.88
Income	Goal \$25,000	\$ 1,655.00	\$ 14,147.00
Expenses		\$ -	\$ 36.17
New Construction Fund Balance		\$ 1,655.00	\$ 26,801.71
Franklin Ave Mission	Goal \$5,000	\$ 165.00	\$ 4,190.00
Capital Improvement Balance as of		MTD	\$ 144,257.67
Collected	Goal \$80,000	\$ 4,710.66	\$ 45,854.88
Expenses		\$ -	\$ 27,204.79
Capital Improvement Balance		\$ 4,710.66	\$ 162,907.76

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

