



CONNECTING People To Jesus

St. Michael's of Richville, Michigan

WHEN THE MORAL COMPASS IS BROKEN



I've never been one to plaster bumper stickers all over my car. People who do seem to have some very strong views, apparently believing that "everyone is entitled to my opinion." Several weeks ago

while visiting our son in the Chicago area I was behind a car with several political stickers. One said, "Normal people don't vote for rapists," an obvious dig at President Trump. (Our President was convicted of sexual abuse in a civil (not criminal) trial for an incident which allegedly occurred in 1996. President Trump maintains his innocence.) Right below that sticker was another one that said, "Free Luigi," a reference to Luigi Mangione, the young man charged with murdering health care CEO Brian Thompson. Last year Thompson was shot in the back while walking down the street in New York. Luigi's supporters have praised him for shooting Thompson, just as they cheered the assassination of Charlie Kirk and applauded two assassination attempts on President Trump.

Apparently the driver of the car thought that sexual assault is wrong but that murder is right, depending on who is doing it. In this twisted way of thinking it's okay to shoot people if they disagree with your political beliefs.

News reports several weeks ago revealed that Jay Jones, Democratic candidate for attorney general in Virginia, sent text messages saying the Republican Speaker of the House should get "two bullets to the head." He called the Speaker's children "little fascists" and wished they were dead too. He also said he wanted to do something on the graves of his political opponents in words I will not repeat. This man is running for attorney general, the highest law enforcement office in the state of Virginia, and this is what he wants to do to people who don't agree with him?

We shouldn't be surprised. Ever since 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri, we have seen an escalation of political violence, rioting, and even murder. Not only that, but those on the left have cheered it and applauded it. It's pretty much the same crowd that calls for defunding the police and encourages attacks on ICE agents. This is what happens when people do not have a moral compass to guide them. In a very real sense their political ideology has taken the place of religion. It is their belief system, and they are so committed to it that they have no tolerance for anyone who disagrees. It is no coincidence that many of these same people reject the Christian faith, seeing it as fictional, archaic, and irrelevant. Five years ago

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on a Saturday night I was watching news coverage of the George Floyd riots. Seeing people loot stores, set fires, and throw rocks and bottles at police, I asked my wife, "How many of those people do you think will be in church tomorrow?" That really sums it up, doesn't it? After Charlie Kirk was assassinated there were no riots. Instead his supporters gathered for prayer and worship. They held vigils and found comfort in the promises of God's grace in Christ Jesus.

The Christian faith gives us a framework of right and wrong, good and evil, truth and falsehood. The teachings of Holy Scripture act as a guardrail, telling us how we should live, what to do and what not to do. We have the Ten Commandments to guide us. The Bible says, "Love your neighbor as yourself." "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." When a society or a nation rejects those teachings and the Biblical standard of right and wrong, what is left? It is as it says in the book of Judges, "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Their moral compass is broken. The British author and writer G.K. Chesterton is credited with saying, "When people stop believing in God they don't believe in nothing. They believe in anything." Having rejected the true Gospel, they believe in false gospels that lead to a very dark place.

Our true and only comfort in times like these are the gracious promises of our Savior and the peace that comes from knowing that ultimately, all things are in His hands. By Jesus' incarnation, holy life, and sacrificial death we are redeemed from this sinful world. In the meantime we find solace in prayer, the Word of God, and the fellowship of believers. We shake our heads at what is happening around us. Yet Jesus assures us, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Your co-worker in Christ,
Pastor Gillaspie



There are a number of significant dates coming up at St. Michael's as the holiday season approaches. Make sure that you will be here on:

Wednesday, November 26, 7:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Thursday, November 27, 9:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Day Service

Wednesdays, Dec. 3, Dec. 10, 7:00 p.m.

Advent Wednesday Services

Sunday, December 7th, 3:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Hymn-Sing Christmas Concert

Wednesday, December 17, 7 p.m.

St. Michael's School Program

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day Service 9:00 a.m.

See you in church!

Gifts & Memorials

In Memory

Dolores Bauer

Home Purpose—\$250.00

Vera (Reinbold) Talaski

Home Purpose—\$30.00

Orma Kraai

Church Music—\$50.00

In Honor

Hilda Buchinger's 95th Birthday (Sept. 29th)

-gifts were given to the Endowment Fund by
David Buchinger & Family;
Matt & Marcy Buchinger & Family.

LLL Greenery Sale

It's time to order that beautifully decorated wreath or grave blanket. We will take orders thru November 6.

We will place your wreath or grave blanket on your loved ones grave site in our cemetery on November 12. If you order a wreath or grave blanket to take with you they should be picked up on Saturday November 15 at the church shed from 9am until 12 noon.

For information and to order, call Bruce at 989-798-8073 or Jim 989-670-1710.

This sale is supported by Thrivent Financial. The proceeds will be going to support Pastor Conrad's ministry, Pablo's work among the believers of Islam and the local group "Sleep In Heavenly Peace". They build and furnish beds for children in Tuscola County that have no bed.

Thank You for your continued support of these projects through the Lutheran Laymen's League



The Caring Closet in Saginaw Supported by Outreach

We are collecting:

Toys, books, and games;
Blankets, hats, mittens,
socks, and pajamas; Gifts
for parents and grandparents.

If you'd rather donate money, **Ann Zwerk** will be happy to shop for you!

For questions or to arrange donations, contact **Ann Zwerk** at (989) 672-9363



Shut-In and Nursing Home Residents

Winter Village, 255 Mayer, Frankenmuth, MI 48734:
Lois Bickel, Joann Kern, Irene Gohsman, Lorraine Schluckbier.

Covenant Glen, 1040 Covenant Drive, Frankenmuth, MI 48734: *Luella Buchinger, Nancy Gruber, Doris Heindl, Doris Rau. Bernice Auernhamer, Rollie Wenzel*

Tuscola County Care Facility, 1285 Cleaver, Caro, MI 48723: *Bob Hadaway, Norm Petzold*

Vassar Comfort Care, 5830 Frankenmuth Road, Vassar, MI 48768: *Larry Putman*

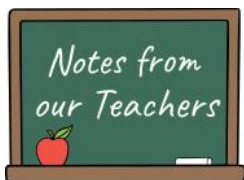
- *Marlene Rodammer* - Symphony Nursing Home, 6700 Westside Saginaw Rd, Bay City MI 48706
- *Doris Buchinger* - 3099 S. Quanicassee, Reese, MI 48757
- *Don Hecht* - 3696 Elmwood Court, Vassar, MI 48768
- *Bob and Faith Heinlein* - 124 Spruce St., Vassar, MI 48768
- *Wayne Landskroener* - 9347 W. Sanilac Rd, Reese, MI 48757
- *Margaret Schemm* - P.O. Box 113, 9358 Saginaw Rd, Richville, MI 48758
- *Don Duperon* - 10220 E. Washington Rd, Reese, MI 48757
- *Arlene Bierlein*— 2733 S. Quanicassee Rd. Reese, MI 48757
- *Ron & Karen Wirth*—9005 W. Sanilac Rd. Reese, MI 48757
- *Willie Wirth*— Medilodge, Frankenmuth

Please keep these members in your prayers. Consider brightening their day with a visit, or send a card on their birthday, for a holiday, or just "thinking of you." We have nice greeting cards available at church for one dollar. They are on a display case near the restrooms.

Sisters of Ruth

Wednesday, November 5th, we will meet at the church for a pot luck at 12 p.m.





ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS (A snapshot of the school!)

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Kindergarten –Mrs. Hoepfner and Mrs. Jammer
The Kindergarten class enjoyed a field trip to Leaman's Green Apple Barn where the students enjoyed learning how apples grow and how cider is made. They picked apples off of trees, tasted cider & doughnuts, met some friendly farm animals, played on a playground made of retired farm equipment, and had a hayride. Last week we took a trip to Richville Fire Station to learn about fire safety.

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1st Grade - Mrs. Janson and Mrs. VanDeVeer
October began with a trip to the Richville Fire Station where we learned about fire safety and got to tour the fire trucks. In class we have been learning a variety of new things! We took a field trip this past week to Weiss Farms where we made pretzels and learned some history about the ingredients as well as how the shape of a pretzel reminds us of God's love. The kids loved exploring the corn maze and trying to solve the clues in the maze as well as playing games together in the courtyard of the farm and seeing the animals.

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2nd Grade - Mrs. Doan
2nd graders went to the fire station at the beginning of October and saw the firemen get into their gear and crawl on the floor to show what they would do if there was a real fire. The students also got to go into the fire trucks. This week each 2nd grader is doing a report/presentation for Social Studies. They could choose one of 3 options: interview a person 54 years or older to see what life was like for them as a child compared to what life is like for kids today, or bring in some kind of food or treat that was from their family's culture or heritage, like a recipe handed down generation to generation, or tell a tradition or two that their family does.

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3rd Grade - Mrs. Bierlein
In Science we finished up a chapter talking about ecosystems and the animals in those ecosystems. To conclude our chapter each student created and presented a diorama showing an animal in their habitat. We are now learning about different types of fossils. In Michigan History we are talking about the

native people who lived in Michigan and how the French fur traders began to change how they lived.

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4th Grade - Mrs. Knea
This month we took our first Math, Science, and Social Studies tests and finished our first units in Reading and Religion. We're working on our first big project of the year, exploring and labeling landmarks and cities in the five regions of the US. Our first field trip is Oct 31st and we can't wait!

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5th Grade - Mrs. Krause
The 5th graders are hard at work. They enjoyed working on their first social studies projects with cake and candy ships along with Lego ships, maps, and a diorama. These will be in the hall outside our classroom through parent teacher conferences. We also finished our first novel The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, finishing up watching the movie in class. We are looking forward to being a "big" kid and enjoying a movie in the gym for our fall party.

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6th Grade - Mrs. Woodward
The 6th grade Science class created plant and animal cells and have been starting to learn about the 5 Kingdoms. 7th grade Science finished up a unit on minerals and have started learning about the rock cycle and igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. 8th grade Science has been learning about physical and chemical changes and the differences between the two, including labs exploring the different reactions.

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7th Grade - Mrs. Lamb
The DC Trip was incredible! We did so many fantastic things, saw so many marvelous sites, and the kids behaved superbly. The 6th grade just finished reading the classic survival novel Hatchet by Gary Paulsen and in Social Studies they just finished up a unit on Human Geography. The 7th grade is learning about the very first civilization in Mesopotamia. In English, 7th will be writing an argumentative essay and I am curious to see what topics they choose. Both math classes are chugging along. The kids are doing very well and I've been pleased with their academic progress already. Happy October!

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Resource Room - Mrs. Newton
Now that all the beginning-of-the-year reading screenings on K-4 are complete, the teachers and I have come up with schedules for me to work with the students who need some extra help. I am currently working with 15

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different students, some in small groups and some 1:1. Mrs. Elaine Keinath has been gracious enough to volunteer her expertise and is volunteering on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; she works with an additional 10 students. I love the impact that we can have in supporting academic success for these students!

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Media Center/Upcoming Events - Mrs. Brown In the Media Center we read a lot of fall themed books, most of them stories of being brave, making friends and the joy of autumn. We made some cute pumpkins out of pipe cleaners. Scholastic Book Fair will be Nov. 10-14. Setting up E-Wallets is great for keeping students on budget while they shop!
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Sports News

- Boys soccer placed 2nd overall and qualified to play in the gold TCLL League Tournament. They received a BYE first round and played twice Saturday 10/11, coming in 2nd.
- Girls volleyball placed 3rd in their division and qualified to play in the silver TCLL League Tournament. They received a BYE first round and played twice Saturday 10/11, coming in 1st.
- Cross country states: We have 1 athlete who qualified to attend Nationals in Mequon, WI. Congratulations to Remy Rodammer! We wish him good luck on October 25.

St. Michael's Athletic Department Fundraiser

The St. Michael's Athletic Department is selling custom Raider stainless steel water bottles and tumblers to raise funds for the athletic department. Options include a 32 oz water bottle, 20 oz water bottle, and 20 oz tumbler with lid.

MICHIGAN LASER CUSTOMS
ENGRAVE • CUT • MARK • REPEAT



**St. Michael's Lutheran School
BOTTLE & TUMBLER FUNDRAISER
PERSONALIZED DRINKWARE ORDER FORM**

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT!

Tumblers make great gift ideas!



All items will be maroon in color with silver engraving. The Raider logo will be included along with first name underneath and last name on the side.

Order one for yourself or get one as a gift for your children, grandchildren, or other Raider fans.

Order forms are available on the table in the church foyer, and all order forms and money must be turned in to the school office by November 7.

If you would like to see a sample size of the water bottles and tumbler, they are on display at the school in the showcase next to the office.

LOOK at the product samples in the display case by main office

Mission Fest Sunday

November 23rd

Our Mission will be:
Franklin Avenue
Mission



Harvest Brunch

November 9th, 10:15 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

At the Park Hall

Join us for a free breakfast
to celebrate and give thanks
for all everyone has done!

Sponsored by Board of Stewardship





Gift Card Fundraising

It's that time of year again where you can simplify your gift-giving needs by purchasing gift cards through RaiseRight (formerly known as Scrip). They offer a variety of gift cards including local vendors & restaurants that are available to purchase at face value with the retailer offering a rebate that goes back to St. Michael's. The recipient of the rebate is chosen by you, which can include school tuition, childcare costs, hot lunch, 7th/8th grade class trip or the church's Home Purpose account.

We will once again be offering the sale of select cards/ order forms in the church foyer between services beginning Nov 1st—December 14th.

Orders may also be made by going online to Raiseright.com or by stopping by the school office during school hours.

This is a simple and easy fundraiser to fulfill your shopping needs or to buy for your everyday essentials. A large list of retailers and restaurants is available at Raiseright.com

We appreciate those of you who have participated in this fundraiser in the past. Call Cheryl (989)882-5621 or Lavonne (989)863-0081 if you would like to assist or if you have any questions.

St. Michael Lutheran Church

*3455 S. Van Buren Road
Reese, Michigan 48757*

*Phone: 989-868-4791
Email: church@stmichaelsrichville.org*

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

Mary Martha

Meeting

Monday, November 3 at 7pm
in the Church Meeting Room

to hear a representative from Family Promise of Tuscola County. A non-profit that helps homeless and low income families achieve independence partnering with local congregations and community resources providing shelter, meals and support services. Meeting and refreshments to follow.

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Thank you to everyone that donated supplies for school and hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train. A total of 88 school and 66 hygiene kits were delivered to Orphan Grain Train in Sebawaing on October 7.

Orphan Grain Train--Michigan recently completed its third international shipment since April. The goods loaded on September 11 are now in transit to Biedriba Gaujaslici, an Evangelical Lutheran Church organization in Cesis, Latvia. This is a community of 20,000 located 80 km east of the capitol city of Riga. The outreach is to homeless families and Ukrainian refugees.

For more information about Orphan Grain Train visit their website www.ogt.org/branches/michigan



Lion Consulting

With Julian Petzold will be hosting a question/ answer session about

School & Childcare Security

on December 7th, 12 p.m.
(after the 10:30 service.)



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. They collect shoe boxes filled with *hygiene products, school supplies and other necessities* along with wow objects to countries where children don't have many items. They present the children a shoebox and also share the Gospel of Jesus through a course that shares stories from the Bible.

Sara Knea has been a year around volunteer for OCC for twelve years. When the leaders of the drop-off center in Caro decided step down, a need for a drop-off center in Tuscola County arose and St Michael's was asked.

The third week of November is OCC's National Collection Week.

On that week millions of shoeboxes will be brought to churches and schools to start the Journey of the Shoebox.

There are many ways that you can volunteer!

Sign up sheets will be in the foyer, and watch the bulletin for more information!



FILL
a shoebox

St Michael's will be collecting shoeboxes in the Park Hall:

Mon, Nov. 17: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Tue, Nov. 18: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Wed, Nov. 19: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Thu, Nov. 20: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fri, Nov. 21: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Sat, Nov. 22: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Sun, Nov. 23: 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Mon, Nov. 24: 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

CUT THIS OUT TO HELP PACK YOUR SHOEBOX!

Packing Party Checklist



Are you packing for a boy or girl? _____

What age are you packing for? __ 2-4 __ 5-9 __ 10-14

Please try to include age appropriate items from every category in your box.

- ☐ Hygiene Items (toothbrush, comb, washcloth, soap)
- ☐ School items (paper, pencils, pens, crayons)
- ☐ Accessories (hair bows, bracelets, sunglasses, hat)
- ☐ Toys (jump rope, small ball, instrument, cars)
- ☐ One Game (puzzles, cards)
- ☐ One Stuffed Animal, Doll, or Wow Item

Fill any remaining space with additional toys, school items, and accessories.

Finish your box by including a note and praying for the child who will receive your box.

Complete a packing label and tape it to your box. Thank you!

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

