



In This Issue

Pastor's Letter	P. 1
Worship & Education Schedule	P. 2
Children, Youth & Family	P. 4
Social Ministry	P. 7
Guatemala Partnership	P. 8
Study & Fellowship	P. 9
Property Update	P. 12
Council Corner	P.12
Financial Update	P. 14

Be Idle and Be Blessed ~Pastor Ali Ferine

The late Mary Oliver is among the most celebrated modern American poets; her many accolades include the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. Her simplistic, nature-inspired poetry has captured the wonder of readers from all ages and after her death in 2019, *The New Yorker* called her, "one of the most beloved poets of her generation."

Now that summer is upon us, the world that Mary Oliver wrote so eloquently of feels available to us. Take into consideration her poem, "Praying"

*It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.*



Her words invite us to consider all of creation and the entirety of our surroundings as the threshold of prayer, an opening to commune with the Divine. She writes in harmony with the Psalmist:

*"O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
The earth is full of your creatures." (Ps 104:24)*

At the dawning of summer I often read my favorite Mary Oliver poem, *The Summer Day*, which ends with the famous lines, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" It is tempting to recite them on every "Congratulations" card for the mass of recent college and high school graduates I know, and yet the point of her poem is not to suggest that we should spend our "one wild and precious life" increasing productivity, chasing after success, or hustling in grind culture. The answer to her question is found at the opening of her poem: "I don't know what prayer is. I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass, how to be idle and blessed...tell me, what else should I have done?" She summons her readers into a slow and quiet pace to find the wealth of beauty and blessing in what **God** has created, not in what we can produce.

"Be idle and be blessed." What an invocation for these summer months! Use this season to relax into the bounty of God's love made known through the gift of creation. I often tell the cabin-goers who confess their lack of church attendance during the summer months that "summer is a sanctuary in and of itself" and I believe that whole-heartedly... just as I believe that gathering in community around God's Word and Sacrament gives us the perspective we need in order to fully recognize the blessing of the sunset, to better hear the song that lies within the lapping of the lakeshore, to wholly receive the wisdom of the rustling pines.

This summer our pace as a faith community will shift, and though we are certainly busy with construction and building projects, serving and caring for our community, and dreaming and planning for the year ahead, perhaps with fewer meetings and programs filling our calendars we can sink a little more deeply into worship and fellowship, trusting that God is still meeting us in the small quiet moments.

Blessed summer, dear ones! May you find time to be "Idle and blessed" -- and because we know rest has become a privilege not afforded by all, may Mary Oliver's words be for us God's call to build a better world, a world in which everyone can rest and delight in their "wild and precious" life.

Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, worship is led by organ.

Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m., worship is led by keyboard.

Monday evening worship will be outside on the East Lawn outside the Fellowship Hall. We will move into the Courtyard Room for inclement weather or on particular weeks when the pastor or staff are unavailable for outdoor setup.

June Worship Services

Sunday, June 4 – Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. *High School Senior Recognition*

Monday, June 5 – Worship on the Fellowship Hall Lawn at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 11 – Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, June 12 – Worship on the Fellowship Hall Lawn at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 18 – Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. *Celebrating the baptisms of Lela and Arlo Holm*

Monday, June 19 – **Worship in the Courtyard Room** at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 25 – Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. *Youth Service Trip Worship*

Monday, June 26 – Worship on the Fellowship Hall Lawn at 7:00 p.m. *Youth Service Trip Worship*

Live-Streamed Services

Over the summer, our Sunday worship service at 10:00 a.m. will be live-streamed and available for later viewing at your leisure. Subscribe to the St. Michael's YouTube Channel to watch worship live on Sunday mornings if you are not able to come in person. Scan this QR Code to go to the St. Michael's Channel:



Watch your Friday Flyer for a copy of the Bulletin to download and follow along, as well as the link to the live service. Streamed services will also be recorded and posted on Sunday evening on our website <https://www.stmichaelselca.com/> for viewing at your convenience

June Guest Preacher



On June 18th & 19th we welcome St. Michael's member, the Rev. Jeanne Hartfield, as our guest preacher! Jeanne was this year's women's retreat facilitator and is currently serving as the bridge interim pastor at Christ Lutheran in Lake Elmo. We are excited and grateful to have her in the pulpit!

Summer Worship Volunteers Are Needed!

Help make worship possible this summer! Volunteers are needed to serve as ushers, lectors, communion deacons, and fellowship hosts. These are great opportunities for folks of all ages - families are encouraged to sign up together! Head to www.stmichaelselca.com and click "Volunteer" to access signups.



Reminder: there is no Monday Night Worship on July 3

Life of the Congregation

In Memorial

A memorial service for Ed Olson will be held on Saturday, June 3. The visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the service will start at 11:00 a.m. followed by a luncheon. Ed's family invites you to join them for this time of remembrance and mourning.

In Welcome

With joy we lift up St. Michael's members who received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism: Theodore Emil Cihacek was baptized on May 14.

In Love

Laura Rose Brand, daughter of Lornell and Ted Brand and Thomas Charles Gachet, son of Monique Amblard and Lionel Gachet announce their upcoming wedding nuptials on Sunday, the thirteenth of August at St. Michael's Lutheran Church at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Your presence at the ceremony would be an honor to the couple.

Laura Rose discovered the values that this event represents - music, community, and above all love - in this church.



Pastor Brad's Sabbatical

Pastor Brad began his sabbatical by serving as a liturgist at the Festival of Homiletics, a conference that draws thousands of preachers together each year. Here, he is leading the closing communion service at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

Office Hours

Need to swing by the church office? Give us a call first, or schedule a visit with a staff person – Summer staff schedules are varied due to youth trips, camp, etc. and we don't want to miss you! Thank you!

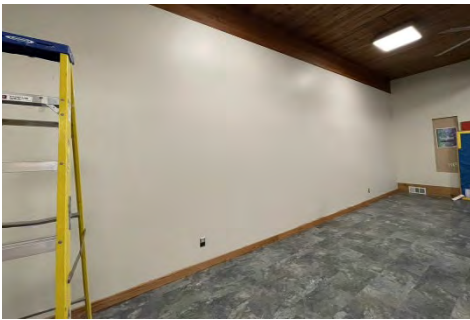
Pastor Brad will be on Sabbatical until August 21st

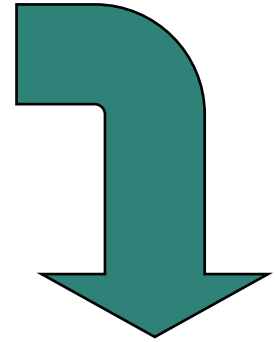
Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

Mural Reveal

Our youth hosted the Adult Education hour for our mural reveal on April 30th. We had Deacon Michelle Walka with us. She designed and walked along side with us in this project. We appreciate everyone who celebrated and has supported us throughout this project. A special thank you to Dennis Skovsted, Jill Griffin, Roland Hayes, Brad Koland, Jerry Romero, Mac Berndt, Aleksi Moran, Solvi Wagstrom, Jon LeRoux, Tara Rogness, Cristy Buss-Murray, Lisa Koland, Pastor Ali Ferin, Pastor Brad Froslee, Renee Berndt, Maria Zarambo, Dan Gregg, Carol Kriegler, the property committee, the choirs for allowing us to store all our stuff in your space and those who have made special gifts to this project as well. If you haven't had a chance to see it, pop into the youth room and take a look!

~ Natalie Romero, CYF Director





Teacher Appreciation

A deep word of gratitude to our Sunday School Teachers and CYF Volunteers. We had an amazing school year!

We adore spending time with our students, walking along with them in their faith journey, and being a friend to them.

We had a great closing program on May 21st; students shared music, thank yous, and treats from Guatemala.

Thank you to all the parents and grown-ups for your continued support.



Friday Flock

SING!

JUNE 30TH

We will be watching the movie Sing!

Movie Night!
6pm-8pm

Open to all 3yr old's to completed 5th grade

Dinner and snacks will be provided.

*Hotdogs, chips, fresh fruit, fresh veggies, & Pirates booty for our movie.

Bring a blanket to sit on. Drop off will be in the Fellowship Hall (Door 2).
Grown ups will need to come in to sign in.

Walk-ins are welcome but we encourage you to fill out a registration form by using the QR code by Sunday, June 25th to help us plan.



Social Ministry Activities

Social Ministry Calendar

- June 5: **Rezek House Meal**
- June 13: **Keystone Mobile Food Distribution**
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. *in Circle Drive*
- June 14 & 28: **Quilting and Bandage Rolling**
9:00 a.m. *Fellowship Hall*
- June 2: **Every Meal Distribution**
10:00 a.m. *Parkview School*
- June 11: **Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission**
10:00 a.m. *Serving Area & Kitchen*
- Daily: **Panera Bread Ministry**
Evening pick up at Rosedale Panera, Morning Bagging in Kitchen



Volunteers are needed for the Rezek House Community Meal!

Do you love to cook? Rezek House, run by Lutheran Social Services, provides 2-year transitional housing for homeless youth ages 16-21. We provide a monthly community meal for the residents and staff to enjoy together.

Meals should feed 15 adults. Dishes should be fully cooked but warming or re-heating is acceptable. No "Hot Dishes" and no pork, please.

Rezek House is located at 501/503 Asbury Street, St. Paul, MN 55104.

When you arrive, please walk down the alley on the side of the apartment building (503) into the smaller building (501) behind the apartment building.

Please call 651-644-7739 to give staff an idea of when you will be dropping off the meal.

Drop off dishes by 4pm if they are ready to serve.

Drop off items needing warming by 2pm.

Find more information at www.stmichaelselca.com and click "Volunteer Sign Up" on the home page. Scroll until you find the Rezek House Meal sign-up!

Or scan this QR Code:



Thank you Loaves & Fishes Volunteers!



We had an eventful evening at Loaves and Fishes on May 15th – the power went out in the kitchen during prep and we were short a few volunteers...even so, we successfully fed 325 neighbors a warm and nutritious meal! Thank you to our dedicated team of volunteers – consider joining them for the next meal on July 17th!

Cooking by the light of our cellphones!

Guatemala Partnership

The trip to visit our partner congregation is a long one. First, a day of air travel into Central America then a two-day drive across Guatemala before you reach your destination. You *feel* the distance you have covered, you *feel* how small a human is on the scale of this earth.

As we traveled, we talked. You can cover a lot of verbal distance in 14 hours in the backseat of a pickup truck. In conversation after conversation with our Guatemalan friends, we found similarities in our situations, but we also found commonality in our responses of “But, what difference can I really make?”

- The effects of climate change being seen in both our countries, the devastation of the land in Guatemala by Palm Oil plantations driven by the companies supplying products to the United States.
- Corruption in government, abuse of power for personal gain, regulations adding hurdles to voter participation.
- The mismatch between the number of jobs and the number of those seeking them and Immigration policies counterintuitive to solving the mismatch.
- The inability to provide clean water, affordable utilities, and safe sanitation across our countries.
- The threat of violence; gun violence, personal violence, police violence, military violence.

All the issues we discussed felt too large to tackle; too large especially for someone just reminded of how small they felt in this world. Hopelessness began to set in and we talked about that too. We also talked about faith; that we had faith in a God of abundant love. I wasn't sure at the time why, but that helped me keep my feelings of hopelessness from spiraling into despair.

Several weeks have gone by and I keep revisiting those conversations and the feelings they evoked. I believe that within the safety of God's love we are free to feel small or alone or hopeless. But even though we may *feel* hopeless, we are not without hope. I believe God's love gives us hope. An abundant love encompasses everyone and everything without limits; a limitless love gives me freedom to hope.

~Lisa Koland



RIP Medical Debt

Over the last two years St. Michael's has joined local churches in a coordinated effort called THEE Alliance to support the organization **RIP Medical Debt**. Recently the local coordinator, Skip Lieser, shared an update.

St. Michael's as a congregation (not including individual families who have made contributions):
has given gifts totaling \$700
allowing forgiveness of medical debt in the amount of \$57,788
with 92 families having medical debt forgiven

As part of The Alliance, the congregation has cumulatively had \$49 million forgiven for 50,000 families.

We look forward to continuing support of this work and making a difference in the lives of families both here in Minnesota and across the nation.

Summer Fellowship Opportunities

Quilting and Bandage Rolling

Quilting and bandage rolling will meet twice a month over the program year on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we turn scraps into beautiful comfort items!

Come join the fun on **June 14 & 28**.

Mahjongg

Are you looking for a group to play with or do you want to learn? Join the group that plays at 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month. Contact Sue Kuhn or Jane Doyle with any questions.

Esther Circle

The Esther Circle will meet on Tuesday, June 6, at 11:00 a.m. at Axle's for our summer luncheon. Please contact Sandy Gibson if you have any questions.

PSSST... It's Back
The Women's Christmas Buffet
Tuesday, December 5

HELP NEEDED!

Tuesday Morning

- Set up
- Decoration
- Preparation

Tuesday Evening

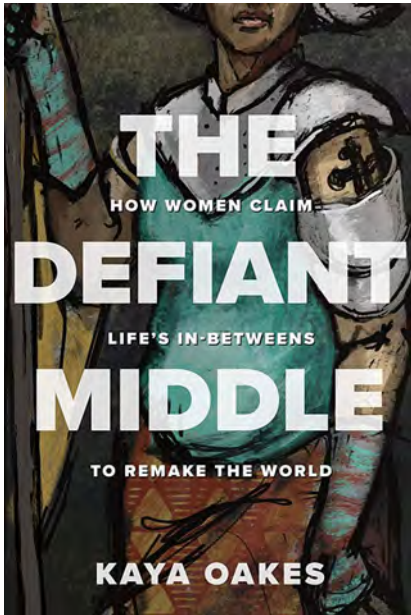
- Serve
- Bus Tables & Run Dishwasher
- Clean up

Interested in planning or helping?
Contact Sandy Gibson
651-636-3899
kensan2k22@gmail.com

Men and Women welcome to volunteer!

Summer Patio Series – Kick off on June 4!

Join the St. Michael's women for the Summer Patio Series, a time for small group connection and conversation! For five sessions this summer, small groups will read *The Defiant Middle* by Kaya Oakes.



Women are expected to be many things. They should be young enough, but not too young; old enough, but not too old; creative, but not crazy; passionate, but not angry. They should be fertile and feminine and self-reliant, not barren or butch or solitary. Women, in other words, are caught between social expectations and a much more complicated reality.

In *The Defiant Middle*, Kaya Oakes draws on the wisdom of women mystics and explores how transitional eras or living in marginalized female identities can be both spiritually challenging and wonderfully freeing, ultimately resulting in a reinvented way of seeing the world and changing it. "Change, after all," Oakes writes, "always comes from the margins."

Small groups will meet 5 times over the course of the summer on either Wednesday, Thursday, or Sunday evenings. The small group sign-up and discussion guides for each meeting are available at www.stmichaelselca.com/patioseries.

A kick-off party will be held on June 4th at 6:00 p.m. at Sue Thompson's home in Shoreview. (contact the church office you need the address) Bring a snack to share and if possible, come having read the "Prelude" section of the book.

Bible and Brew

St. Michael's Men's Bible & Brew is a group of men of all ages who gather for conversation, learning, and connection over a beverage and snacks. Sometimes the group meets at a local pub/brewery, a home, or at St. Michael's.

This summer St. Michael's Men's Bible & Brew will be meeting twice.



Wednesday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Hosted at Ted Brand's home.

Thursday, August 17, 7:00 p.m.

Hosted at Chuck Hanson's home.

Yoga Devotion



The Yoga Devotion 8 week session is, May 1 through June 19.

Class on Mondays in June starts at 6:00 p.m.

Cost \$72.00

Contact Mary Drache with questions.

Register & pay with this link:
All are welcome.



Attention College Students!

If you are a future or current college student (or if someone you know is a college student) who is looking for a community of friends and a way to express faith, consider campus ministry! Young adults experience unique spiritual, intellectual and emotional challenges. Campus Ministry seeks to strengthen and support them as they learn and grow.

You can use this referral tool to find a ministry near you. If you are looking for a school that is not listed, the link will direct your referral to the nearest ELCA Lutheran church.

<https://www.luminelca.org/refer-a-student/>

Let's Go See Some Baseball!

The St. Paul Saints are now the number-one affiliate of the Minnesota Twins. The Saints have had a number of players this year that now play for the Saints and the Saints now have two high-ranking players in their lineup (Jose Miranda and Royce Lewis) both are projected to be major league stars in the future.

This Saints-Twins partnership works well for the Twin, when they call a player up from the Saints, all he does is hop in his car and drive across the river to the Twins stadium. He can be called up late in the afternoon, and be in the Twins lineup that night.

It's a great partnership for both the Saints and the Twins.

ST. MICHAEL'S ELCA

*St. Michael's
at the Saints!*

VS

SAINT PAUL SAINTS DURHAM BULLS

FRIDAY, JULY 14

Join us for a night at the ball game! Seats will be located behind homeplate and include a ballpark dinner from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The game starts at 7:07 p.m. and ends with fireworks!

Cost: \$47 per person | Children under 2 are free.

SIGN UP BY JUNE 16 - INVITE A FRIEND!

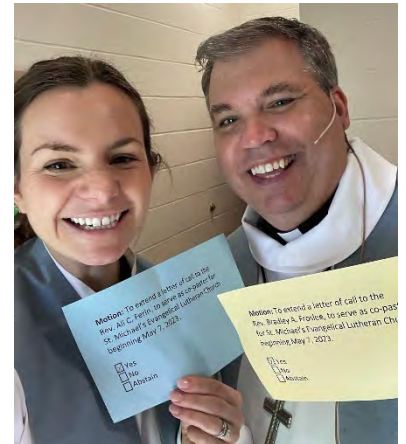
A Church at Work

Co-Pastor Update

A congregation meeting and ballot vote was held on May 7 with two motions calling Pastor Ali and Pastor Brad as co-pastors; the motions passed!

Thank you to the call committee, personnel committee, and council for their hard work.

Join us in praying for our pastors and the entire congregation as we live into God's call of compassion, justice, service, and abundant life together as people of faith.



Property Team Update

Garrison Keillor would start his monolog by saying "it's been a quiet week in lake Woebegone." He then proceeded to talk for half an hour or more about everything that had happened that week. I guess you could say it's been a quiet month at Saint Michael's!

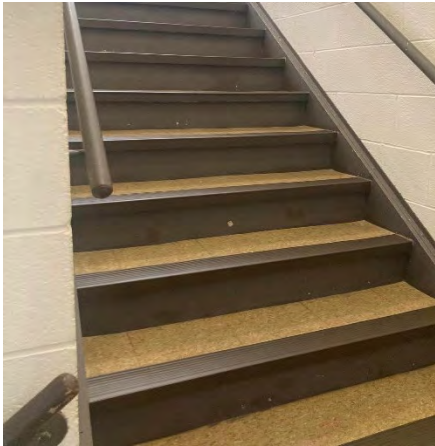
- Of course the big news is that work on the exterior sanctuary walls has begun and should be completed by the end of June. This work will address the water infiltration problem with the design of the brick walls and roof. It also adds some insulation to a previously uninsulated wall. This will not only save energy but make the sanctuary more comfortable in both summer and winter.
- The new dampers that we ordered to replace the non-functioning dampers in the sanctuary air handler have arrived and are in the process of being installed in the ductwork. These dampers plus the new controls we put in earlier this year will allow us to bring fresh air into the sanctuary in order to cool it down for activities the following day. This is essentially free air conditioning in what is otherwise an unconditioned space.
- Thanks to the generous donation of an anonymous church member, we were able to order the new air conditioning system for Fellowship Hall. This new system is a state-of-the-art heat pump that operates at a much higher efficiency than the previous failing air conditioner ever did. It is also capable of running in reverse during the heating season to extract heat from the outdoor air, concentrate it and deliver it to Fellowship Hall rather than using the natural gas heater (that will be left in place as a backup unit). This system will allow us to heat Fellowship Hall with 100%electricity in keeping with Minnesota's Climate Response goals of eliminating carbon fuels like natural gas by the year 2040. This new system should be operational by the time this newsletter is published.
- The sanctuary wall project involves the removal of the copper-clad decorative fins from the exterior wall. A group of property committee volunteers removed the copper from these fins and brought it to a scrapyard. This generated \$4,476.65 in revenue which will go to help pay for the wall project.

In addition to this list, all of the usual maintenance activities have been going on including sump pump repairs, pothole patching, spring clean up of storage areas, repairs to balcony stairway, tree and bush trimming, general yard clean up and work on the pollinator garden.

We give thanks to God for a congregation that understands the need to take care of our church home and so generously donates their time and talents to its ongoing maintenance requirements.

And as Garrison Keillor would end his show, I'll say "that's the news from Saint Michael's where the women are strong, the men are good-looking, and all of the children are above average."

~ Barry Eliason for the Property Committee





Building in Faith Serving in Grace

St. Michael's Capital Campaign

Foundational Goal Surpassed!

Over \$1 Million has been pledged, surpassing our Foundational Goal! **THANK YOU** to everyone who has made this possible. Through your generosity, together we are:

Caring for Our Neighbors with a Tithe (10% of Gifts Received)

Caring for Our Church Home:

Additional Anticipated Costs to Complete Sanctuary Wall Project

Replenish Borrowed Reserves

Additional Deferred Maintenance Projects

Managing Mortgage Payments

We anticipate many more pledges as we look forward to our next level Building Goal of \$1.5M, which will improve our hospitality and accessibility.

If you haven't yet made your pledge, you can place it in the offering plate, mail it in the return envelope, drop it by the church office, or go online www.stmichaelselca.com/capitalcampaign.

On Celebration Sunday, June 11, we will dedicate our gifts and pledges to the Glory of God as we build on our mission to Gather, Nurture, Send.

Church Council Corner

St. Michael's council met on Tuesday, May 9th

There were no major decisions before the council this month, but the council received updates on a number of items in the works:

- The sanctuary wall project that began in May
- Reviewing the congregational meeting on May 4th to call Pastor Brad and Pastor Ali as Co-Pastors
- Financial updates on month-end reports and capital campaign pledges/gifts received
- Numerous property projects that were set to start in May
- Committee monthly reports

The next council meeting is scheduled for June 13 at 7:00 p.m.

2023 Budget Overview and Financial Update

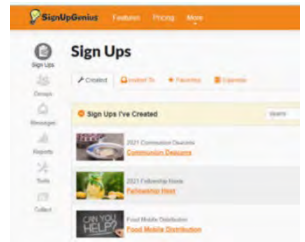
	April Actual	April Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income	\$53,675	\$63,066	\$326,341	\$278,462	\$868,882*
Expenses	\$77,005	\$68,744	\$298,397	\$309,897	\$868,882
Net Balance	-\$23,3301	\$-5,679	\$27,943	-\$31,435	\$0

*At the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2023, the congregation approved use of Reserve Funds to balance the budget, if needed at the end of the year. This is included in the Annual Approved budget of \$868,882.

Worship Leaders and Volunteers Needed

Looking ahead at 2023, there are a wide variety of OPEN Worship Leader spot! Check SignUp Genius for opportunities to volunteer for: **Ushers, Lectors, Communion Deacons, Worship Flowers, and Fellowship Hosts.**

Visit Sign-up Genius to see the opportunities awaiting you. The quickest way to get there is to visit St. Michael's website: www.stmichaelselca.com and click on the Volunteer Sign-up icon



Online Giving & Mobile Giving



Did you know that you can pay for an event or set up a recurring automatic gift to support the work of St. Michael's? Authorization forms are available from the church office or follow this link:

<https://www.stmichaelselca.com/givenow.html>

Vanco also has a mobile App as another method to set up a payment or a recurring automatic gift to support the work of St. Michael's.

Download the Vanco Mobile App from the App Store and search for "St. Michael's Lutheran Church".

St. Michael's is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation



St. Michael's Lutheran Church lives out God's grace and love for all people. Faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we welcome those who have been part of church communities, those who have no previous church experience, and those who have felt excluded by the Church because of their race or ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental capabilities, financial resources, or family circumstances. In this witness we seek reconciliation, healing, and wholeness. As a diverse people we are then empowered by the Holy Spirit to live and work together for God's promised day of justice, peace, and mercy.

Land Acknowledgement

The ELCA has published "A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People," in which the church confesses its sins toward Indigenous peoples and lists the commitments it will begin working toward as it responds to its original "Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery" from 2016.



St. Michael's Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homeland of the Dakota people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Not getting your *Friday Flyer*?

Are you having a problem with our weekly e-newsletter, the *Friday Flyer* not showing up in your primary inbox? First check your other inbox folders—it often shows up in a spot called the *Promotions* folder. Or it could be in your *Spam* folder. If a search of those yields nothing, then contact Lisa Koland at office@stmichaelselca.com, and we'll find a way to make sure the newsletter gets to you!

Making the *Messenger Green*

If you prefer to read your upcoming issues of St. Michael's monthly *Messenger* newsletter in your email or on our church website instead of having a paper copy mailed to you, please notify the church office.

Got something for the July *Messenger*?

The *Messenger* submission deadline is Friday, June 16, 2022.



St Michael's

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