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With Thanksgiving

I recently read a story about a family going through a difficult time. It was easy to focus on all of the things going wrong—money issues, work that needed to be done on the house, illness, and frustrations. Yet, in the midst of the challenges, the family sat down and wrote out a “Gratitude List.” Together they reflected on everything they had to be thankful for...and it turned into a long list!

As I write this column, I am ever mindful of the terrorist attacks on Israel and the Israeli military response. Recently Pastor Ali and I received an article from a friend of the congregation about the crisis in Armenia and recent deaths there...and if you turn on the news, the war between Ukraine and Russia continues to wage...the earthquake in Afghanistan...more people displaced...people struggling with illness...families affected by economic challenges...it is easy to get lost in all that is facing the world and all that affects the lives of people we care about.

In the letter to the Colossians, a community undergoing its own challenges, Paul (or one of his students) encourages the people to be rooted and grounded in faith and abundant in thanksgiving. Antidotes to the stress are to lean into God’s presence and the gift of community and to, indeed, make a list of everything there is to be grateful for.

The month of November seems an apt time to engage in this process of being rooted and grounded in faith and abundant in thanksgiving. At the beginning of the month we celebrate All Saints Day. Here at St. Michael’s we will be commemorating All Saints on

Sunday, November 5. It is a day both to bless and celebrate those baptized this past year, and a time to honor the saints who have died and what they have meant to us. We recognize that we are standing in the middle of the stream of time and hold out the faith that has carried people to this day as well as the gifts we hope to impart to those who will come after us.

November is also the month of Thanksgiving in our country. We pause to “count our blessings” and the gifts in our lives—family, friends, a place to call home, creation, and community. The lists at your home may include a blankie or stuffed animal, a pet, a parent or grandparent, a job, a new opportunity, a chance to travel, the opportunity to love and be loved.

As Pastor Ali and I were “re-installed” just a couple of weeks ago, it was powerful to look around the congregation and be filled with abundance of gratitude for this place and the people. It was powerful to look out at those who love deeply, who volunteer and serve so willingly, work for justice so fiercely, and give so generously. The faces of the community, in that moment, embodied a gratitude list.

Recent studies by the Templeton Foundation highlight the power of generosity and gratitude. Springing from the time we take to share and to give thanks, there is greater connection, greater joy, and a sense of belonging. And when things get difficult these can help us through.

In 2008 my sister-in-law, Martha, was in her final weeks of life after giving her all to take on breast cancer. Yet one of the songs she listened to over and over again was “Thankful” as sung by Josh Groban. The text simply:

*So for tonight, we pray for
What we know can be
And on this day, we hope for
What we still can't see*

*It's up to us, to be the change
And even though this world needs so much more
There's so much to be thankful for*

And so on the cusp of November, I pray. I pray for a solution we still can't see to warfare and brokenness in the world. I hope for a love that binds us more deeply to one another—the saints past and present. I believe that we can be the change as we walk in the ways of Jesus. And I give thanks...making a gratitude list for the blessings in life and here at St. Michael's.

With thanksgiving,
Pastor Brad

Life of the Community

Confirmation

On Sunday, October 29, St. Michael's celebrated with seven 10th graders who affirmed their faith through the rite of Confirmation. We give thanks for these incredible young adults: Grace Berndt, Marissa Breneman, Mia Carrico, Cameron Cramble, Abby Etten, Bella Klaras, and Callie Sorenson.

November Worship & Education Schedule



November 5 *All Saints Sunday*

8:45 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Education Hour
11:00 a.m. Worship Livestreamed

November 12

8:45 a.m. Worship Livestreamed
10:00 a.m. Education Hour
11:00 a.m. Worship

November 19

8:45 a.m. Worship Livestreamed
10:00 a.m. Education Hour
11:00 a.m. Worship

November 22 *Thanksgiving Eve*

7:00 p.m. Worship Livestreamed

November 26 *Reign of Christ*

8:45 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Education Hour
11:00 a.m. Worship Livestreamed

Upcoming Worship & Fellowship Events

- **Thanksgiving Eve Worship**, November 22, 7:00 p.m. Followed by Pie Fest in the Fellowship Hall. *The Sign up to provide pie or volunteer to serve/clean-up is on the church bulletin board!*
- **Children's Christmas Program**, December 17 during the 11:00 a.m. worship service
- **Longest Night Worship, December 21, 7:00 p.m.** *Each year we honor the longest night of the year and the reality of grief and loss which accompany the Advent and Christmas seasons.*
- **Christmas Eve Worship Services**
 - 10:00 a.m. – Family Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
 - 4:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. – Traditional Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion

Live-Streamed Services

Each Sunday, one of our services will be live-streamed. 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

Sunday Education & Fellowship Hour

Join us at 10:00 a.m. between worship services for a time of fellowship and education.

St. Michael's Sunday Morning Parent Group

Press "pause" on the chaos and gather with other St. Michael's parents for a time of connection and reflection on Sunday mornings over a book or shared experiences/topics. Led by parents and for parents, this time is for meaningful conversation and building community.

After dropping off your kids at Sunday school or the nursery, head over to the Caribou Coffee by church (2111 Snelling Ave N) with your book. "*The Sandbox Revolution: Raising Kids for a Just World*"

Coffee is on us!

Sundays Oct 1 - Nov 12

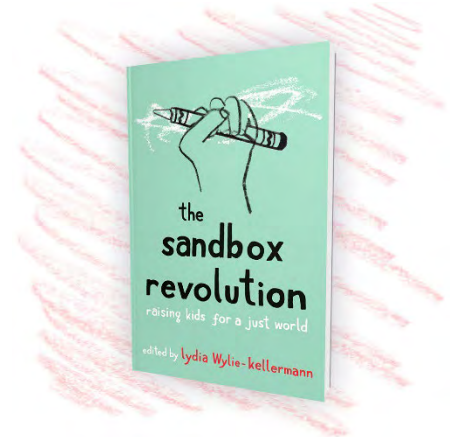
10:05 - 10:45 a.m.

Join in even if you missed the earlier sessions!

The following book sections will be discussed on the below dates:

- Nov 5, Chapter 13-15
- Nov 12, *We turned out human - Guiding Values*

Learn more at <https://www.stmichaelselca.com/parent-book-group.html>



Religion in Life

Sunday Morning Adult Education Forum

Religion in Life is an adult education forum on Sunday mornings during the program year (September-May) held as part of the 10:00-11:00 a.m. education hour. This forum brings in a variety of guest speakers and presenters to address topics such as scripture and theology, ethics and faith in the public sphere, and health and wellness.

November 5

So, what have I learned about marriage? Part II

Roland Hayes, *retired pastor*

Roland's answer to the question posed in the title is this: A healthy marriage relationship is not static-it is always evolving and for it to be healthy and life giving requires constant attention. To that end join Roland in considering what extensive research has shown are key components of a healthy marriage, what folks at the world-renowned Gottman institute have learned about strengthening these components, and what wisdom can be shared with each other that might be helpful to our marriages and partnerships.



November 12

Sojourner Truth, Preaching Freedom



Nancy Koester, professor and pastor

Rev. Dr. Nancy Koester will present the life of Sojourner Truth, a Black preacher and reformer whose Christian faith inspired her work in abolition and women's rights. Koester is the author of *We Will Be Free: The Life and Faith of Sojourner Truth*. For those who are interested, Nancy will have copies of her book available for sale following Religion in Life.

November 19

IFS as a Healing Spiritual Practice

Corey Busch, MA and LMFT

This talk is for anyone who has struggled with mental health or addiction as well as for anyone interested in deepening their connection with God through spiritual practice. IFS (Internal Family Systems) was originally developed as a therapy method, but is also now widely used as a spiritual practice. Most of us find ourselves thinking things, feeling things, or doing things we know are not healthy or helpful. This practice helps bring more calm and understanding to our complicated and confusing thoughts and emotions by helping us access the divine love that resides within each of us. This conversation will teach you what IFS is and provide resources for finding healing through the IFS model.



November 26

Homes with Heart: Turning Living Spaces into Loving Spaces

Ruth Frost, pastor and author



“At their best, our homes have the power to both shelter us and renew us for the good work we do in the world. How we live in our homes will guide who we are in the world. When we extend refuge to those in search of safety, welcome and belonging, we become part of the world’s family....When we live with intention, we can be home wherever we are. As we walk this journey together, may we all turn our living spaces into loving places that become “homes with heart.” In doing so, we embrace the dream of a world that extends hospitality to everyone. In the words of Ram Dass, “All we are doing is walking each other home.” What if that is the most important thing we do in this life? Ruth has come to believe that ultimately, finding home means taking a spiritual journey in good company. We are all one. Together, the way home is love.” Join Ruth for this conversation to guide us home.

We Invite You to Participate in Worship



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.

Donate Worship Flowers

Did you know that you can donate toward the fresh flowers at the altar each week? We welcome you to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one with a dedication that will be printed in the bulletin. After services are done on Sunday, you are welcome to take the flowers home with you to enjoy. (We ask that you return the arrangement can so they can be reused!)

Use the Flower Signup on the bulletin board, call the church office, or sign up online with the above QR code or through the church website www.stmichaelselca.com and click “Volunteer” to access signups.

Music News

Children's Music

Rehearsals Wednesdays

Youth Bells 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Youth Choir 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to the children's music email list, please contact **Cory Bock, Director of Children's Music**



Save the Dates: Youth & Children's Music Ministry

DATES BELOW ARE WHEN EACH GROUP WILL BE IN WORSHIP

YOUTH BELLS:

NOVEMBER 5TH (BOTH SERVICES)

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHOIR:

NOVEMBER 12TH @ 8:45AM

NOVEMBER 22ND @ 7PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

NOVEMBER 12TH @ 11AM

DECEMBER 17TH @ 11AM (PAGEANT)



CONTACT CORY BOCK TO LEARN MORE! CORY@STMICHAELSELCA.COM

Adult Choir: St. Michael's Singers

Rehearsals Wednesdays

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

For more information please contact Karen Wilkerson, St. Michael's Singers Director.

Adult Bells: St. Michael's Chapel Ringers

Rehearsals Thursdays

6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

For more information please contact Charlie Preis, Chapel Ringers Director.

Band of Angels

The Band will be back and playing at the services on **November 12th**.

Rehearsals will be held after the 11:00 a.m. services on October 29 and November 5. Reach out for a copy of the music!

You've heard us before, now be a part of it. We take all ages from Middle school on up. Where else can you have a band that has both kids and adults playing together? So, if you haven't played your band or orchestra instrument in years, then it's time to oil up those valves, put on a new reed, tighten up those strings and PLAY!

Contact Charlie Preis, Band of Angels Director.

All Saints Hymn Festival

Thursday, November 2nd at 7:30pm

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran,
3920 N. Victoria St. Shoreview

Led by David Cherwein, a nationally recognized organist, composer, improviser and church musician. Based in the Twin Cities, Dr. Cherwein served as Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir for 21 years. His creativity and thoughtfulness with respect to the church's hymnody is a testament to the power of hymns in our worship.

Participating in this event are choirs and directors from 5 congregations in our area.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran

Roseville Lutheran

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran

St. Michael's Lutheran

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

We expect over 120 singers! We will also hear readings presented by Jennifer Baker-Trinity, an ELCA deacon and Program Manager for Resource Development for the ELCA and Augsburg Fortress. Invite your friends and neighbors.

Join us for our annual

Pie Fest

Wednesday, November 22nd

in Fellowship Hall

after the 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve worship



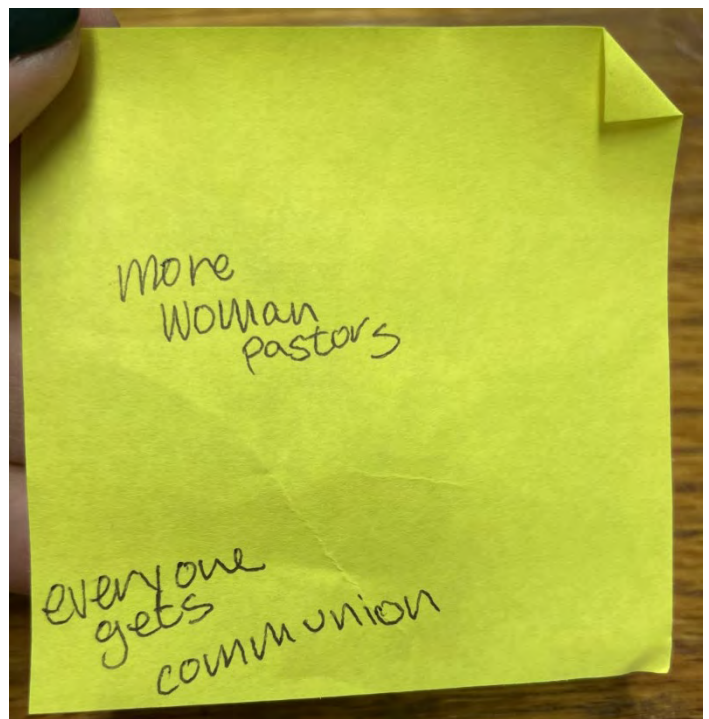
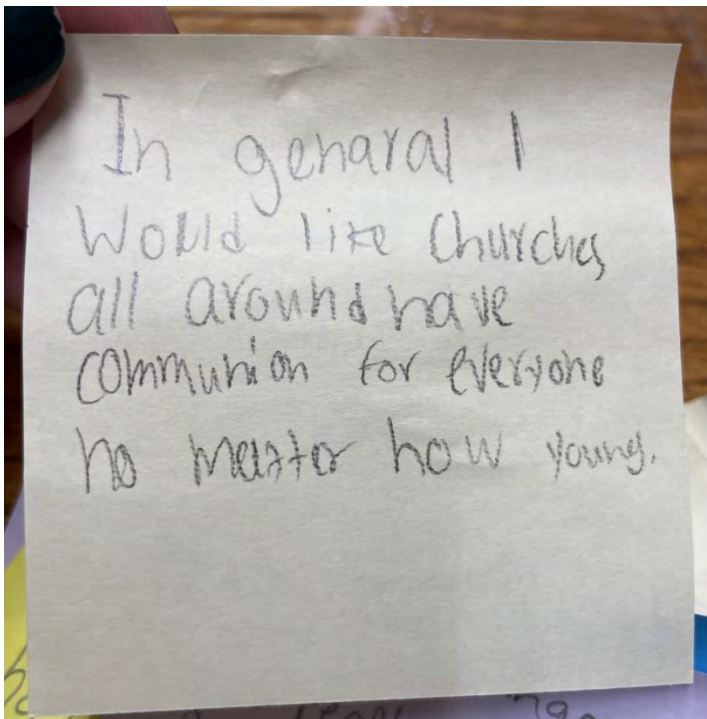
Don't miss this special
community gathering to usher in
the holiday season!

The next time you are at church, sign up to
bring a pie or volunteer to be on the serving
team or clean up team!

Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

On Wednesday nights, our 7th-9th Grade students are focusing on Martin Luther and the Reformation for confirmation. One of the first classes, we talked about the 95 theses that Martin Luther nailed to the door over 500 years ago. I asked students to think about what changes they would like to see in the church, not only at St. Michael's but the "universal Church". They were asked to write it on a Post-it note and post it to the sanctuary doors. Here are two notes that stood out. Our youth listen and see how the future of the church can be shaped. I am continuously amazed at how connected our students feel to the traditions at St. Michael's.

~ Natalie Romero, CYF Director



Our 2023-2024 Sunday School theme is BOUNDLESS!

Our focus will be “God's love is immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.” Students will explore this theme through music, crafts, games, conversations and many other activities.

Sunday School Registration is open all year. Friends are welcome to join us at any time. Feel free to use the QR Code here to register!



Going on Now

November Deep Dive

10th - 12th grade students are welcome to join us for our monthly "Deep Dive".

Every month we will explore a new topic.

November 1st--6:30pm-7:30pm

Join us in the Youth Room

Topic: The Virgin Mary & Purity Culture

Check out the Youth Room for more details & any prereading details.

Contact Natalie Romero at youth@stmichaelselca.com with any questions.



Upcoming Activities!

TWISTED THANKSGIVING

OPEN TO ALL 2ND-5TH GRADERS

NOVEMBER 12TH

12:30PM-2:30PM

Join us for wacky and wild games, scavenger hunt and lunch! Bring a nonperishable food item for our food shelf & one item to share for lunch that starts with the same letter of your first or last name. (Please bring prepared.) *No peanuts, tree nuts, strawberries or blueberries please!

Friends are welcome!

Use the QR Code to sign up by November 5th!



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLERS! JOIN US FOR

FRIENDSGIVING

NOVEMBER 12TH 5PM-7PM

SERVICE TRIP 2024 WILL BE ANNOUNCED!

BRING A DISH TO PASS BASED ON THE FIRST LETTER OF YOUR LAST NAME

A-M: BRING AN APPETIZER

N-Z: BRING A DESSERT

****PLEASE NO ITEMS WITH TREE NUTS OR PEANUTS**

Bring nonperishable food items for our food shelf.

Ideas for our Food Shelf:

- canned vegetables
- canned yams & pumpkin
- stuffing
- canned soups
- Mac & Cheese
- applesauce
- boxed potatoes (scaloped or mashed)

SIGN UP BY NOVEMBER 5TH USING THE QR CODE OR LINK.



WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

DECEMBER 3RD 5PM-8PM

Bring \$5 for dinner & a gift (not new) from home, wrapped to exchange.

Gift Rules:

1. It cannot be a living thing. OR once was a living thing.
2. No perishable food.
3. Must be wrapped fully.
4. If you are not sure if it's appropriate, ask a grown up. Most likely, if you're questioning it, it's probably not.
5. Do not tell anyone what you brought!

**OPEN TO ALL 6TH-12TH GRADERS.
FRIENDS ARE WELCOME.
SIGN UP USING THE QR CODE.
SIGN UP DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 19TH.**

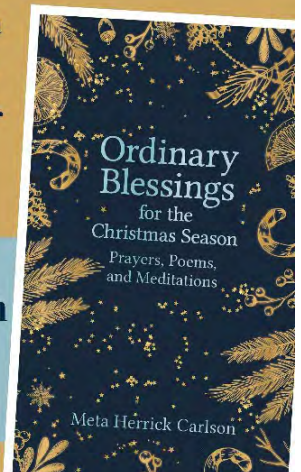


Instagram Giveaway!

Starting November 12th, interact with our Instagram stories to enter a chance to win a SIGNED copy of "Ordinary Blessings for the Christmas Season" by Pastor Meta Herrick Carlson

Every time you interact/answer a poll or question on our stories, your name will be entered to win. A winner will be selected on November 20th!

**Follow us on Instagram
@stmichaelselca**





Cookie Baking & Decorating

Open to all 1st-5th Graders!
December 3rd- 12:30pm-2:30pm

Come bake and decorate cookies for St. Michael's Community Members.

Sign up using the QR CODE



Sign up by November 26th

Save These Dates!

2024 Youth Musical

for all Prek-8th grade students
(9th to 12th Grades will help with practices and scenery)

Musical will be on February 11th at the 11am worship

Practices will be:
5:30pm-7:30pm

January 19th
January 26th
February 2nd
February 9th

Dinner will be provided
*Students are expected to attend all.. Please communicate if there are any conflicts.
*Parents will be needed for one Friday to help with dinner.

Registration deadline is January 7th.
Register using the QR Code
one time cost of \$10 per family to help cover costs of musical supplies & meals.




2024 SERVICE TRIP


JUNE 22ND-JUNE 29TH
REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT OF \$150 DUE
DECEMBER 1ST
TOTAL COST-

WITH FUNDRAISING: \$550
WITHOUT FUNDRAISING: \$700

FINAL COST WILL BE DUE APRIL 15TH
LOCATION WILL BE ANNOUNCE AT FRIENDSGIVING-NOV. 12TH!



REGISTER HERE!



Luther Crest 2024



JULY 7TH-JULY 12TH

Save the dates!
More Registration Details coming soon!
Camp available to for all 3rd-12th graders

7th – 9th Grade Confirmation

Class for 7th-9th Graders is held on Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

November 1

November 8

November 12 – *Virtual Retreat Meeting for Parents/Caregivers*

November 15 – Mentor Night!

November 22 - No class due to Thanksgiving Eve Worship

November 29



Retreat Parent/Caregiver Meeting

The annual **Abundant Life Retreat** is January 13-15 at Camp Wapo in Amery WI. This retreat is for all 7th & 8th grade students, while 9th grade students should plan to attend the High School Abundant Life Lock-In on December 8th!

A parent/caregiver virtual meeting will be held on Sunday, Nov 12 at 7pm. All parents/caregivers are encouraged to attend, but is especially helpful for first-time retreaters. The retreat facilitator, Karin Galloway Egge, will be leading the call.



Social Ministry Activities

Social Ministry Calendar

- November 6: **Rezek House Meal**
Volunteers provide a meal for the staff and residents of Rezek House once a month
- November 8 & 22: **Quilting and Bandage Rolling**
9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall
- November 12: **Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission**
Gather between 9:45-10:00 a.m. in the Serving Area & Kitchen
- November 14: **Keystone Mobile Food Distribution**
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in Circle Drive (west side of the church)
- November 20 **Loaves & Fishes**
Preparing and serving a meal at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 2424 18th Ave. S, Minneapolis. Those preparing food gather between 1:45-2:00 p.m. Those serving the meals arrive at 4:30 p.m.
- Daily: **Panera Bread Ministry**
Evening pick up at Rosedale Panera; Morning Bagging at St. Michael's kitchen
- Fridays: **Every Meal Food Distribution** *(Volunteers still needed)*
Two volunteers meet on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. at Parkview Center School and distribute meals. Placing bags in kids backpacks to provide extra food support over the weekends



November's Featured Ministry

Panera Bread Ministry

Whether you are new to St. Michael's or a long-time member, we would like to highlight ministries in the congregation that people may not know a lot about. One of those ministries is the Panera Bread Rescue. Because this happens "after hours" it is easy to feel that it happens magically. The reality is that it is done by people just like you.

There are volunteer team members who pick up the left-over bread and baked goods from the Panera at Rosedale (817 Rosedale Center) on Sundays at 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 9:00 p.m.

These volunteers then drop off the items at St. Michael's that evening (or before 7:45 a.m. the following morning).

In the morning there are other volunteers who come to the St. Michael's Kitchen Monday-Thursday to bag and label breads and baked goods and deliver to Keystone Food Shelf on University Avenue. On Sundays a volunteer sorts items from the Friday and Saturday delivery and takes some of it to Emma Norton Center and Union Gospel Mission.

If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, feel free to reach out to Dave Yarusso or the church office.

Refugee Resettlement Team

It is hard to believe that just over two years St. Michael's began accompanying a young family from Afghanistan who had just been relocated to the Twin Cities and were expecting their first child.

Two years later it has grown to walking with three families and celebrating the births of several children, helping "teach" driver's education, making sure documents are in order and reviewed by the right people, food runs to grocery stores and the butcher, shared meals, coffee, and tea...and so much more.

On Sunday, October 15, the Refugee Resettlement Team met with Kathryn Berger and Ahmad Shah from the Minnesota Council of Churches. It was an opportunity to honor all that has been accomplished and now how we continue the process of accompaniment in moving from co-sponsor organization to being "good neighbors" and friends.

We look forward to the on-going connection both with these families and with MCC, and the ways that the relationship continues to grow and evolve.

Our Guatemala Partnership

One year. We have one year to prepare for our next trip. Over the MEA weekend in 2024, we plan to visit our partner congregation, Santa Cruz de la Esperanza in Cimiento, Guatemala. As they continue construction of their new church building, they have asked us if we would like to work alongside them in building pews for their church. We are excited to have been asked to work on a project together; it shows that our companionship has developed a level of trust and mutual respect.

Think of it in terms of inviting someone over to your house: it takes a level of friendship to ask someone over to work on a project together; to see all the work of doing, to see the mess of an in-progress project. There is a trust that you will not be judged to let someone see the before, not only the cleaned-and-polished after look.

The simple benches we will build mean a lot to our friends in Cimiento. They signify permanence, stability, and a prosperous future for their church community. We are honored that they have asked us to be a part of building their community.

We will be looking for travelers interested in simple carpentry work, no need for advanced skills! Reach out to previous travelers and members of the Guatemala Team with any questions about travel to Guatemala. It is a unique experience and we welcome your inquiries!

~Lisa Koland, Dave Yarusso, Sandra Eliason, Joan Felice, Natalie Romero, Pastor Brad, and Pastor Ali.



Election and Updates from Joan Felice

I am sure you heard about the election results in Guatemala that found that 60% of the Guatemalan people voted to elect Bernardo Arevalo as president of Guatemala. He has experience as a diplomat, professor, and advocate for the people. His election was certified as free and fair by several international groups. However, the attorney general of the country is trying everything in her power to annul the victory. The ruling parties do not want to give up their positions of power.

As a result, the people, especially the indigenous peoples are staging protests. Most actions have been peaceful so far. Roads and highways are closed by protests and schools have chosen to go to online learning for the safety of travelling students.

After deep reflection and thoughtful communication with the ILAG leadership, several current trips have been rescheduled. Randee Edmundson and I have postponed our planned trip to work with villages on nutrition and gardening projects. A church group that was to travel soon to their partner congregation has also rescheduled.

Please keep the people of Guatemala in your prayers. They are so close to having a government that cares for the people of Guatemala. However, those who have been benefitting from a corrupt government are not giving up easily.

It seems that there is so much going on in the world, that if we do not keep reminding our leaders of the importance of the Guatemalan election, it may not be honored. Pastora Karen and Diego have both said that it may be helpful to keep the process in Guatemala in the view of the US government through letters to government officials, but have requested that we not mention our connection to ILAG. There are two reasons for this. First, being associated with support for the newly elected president may result in a backlash against ILAG by the people trying to remain in power. This backlash

could severely damage the ability of ILAG to carry out its important mission. Second, the entrenched leaders are accusing Bernardo Arevalo of receiving funds and support from abroad in an effort to interfere with Guatemala's sovereignty.

Thank you for caring for the people of Guatemala and their quest for a true democracy.
Joan Felice

Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Drives to Support Our Neighbors

November—Winter Clothing Drive for area Schools

Beginning November 1 through November 26, St. Michael's will be collecting winter wear items for children and youth in the Roseville Area Schools. The school social workers have requested new or gently used snow pants and snow boots - envision little ones from pre-k through middle school who go out for recess, or high schoolers walking to school who could use wind pants and water-proof boots. New or gently used hats and gloves will also be accepted, but the greatest need is for snow pants and boots.

Thank you for helping to make winter better for our community's children and youth. To donate, please bring your items to church and place them in the box next to the narthex door.

December—Christmas Gift Drive

December 3-December 19, St. Michael's will be doing an annual Christmas gift drive for families in the community who need a little extra assistance around the holidays. Information will be available in the narthex in November and highlighted in the December newsletter.

Education & Fellowship Opportunities

End of Life and Funeral Planning Workshop

November 11, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Join Pastor Brad & Pastor Ali for a morning of informative and reflective work regarding end of life care options and funeral planning.

Feel free to bring a family member or friend as you consider options for end of life, learn about what happens after death, and receive information and declare your own wishes regarding a funeral/memorial service.

- 9:00 a.m. "Estate Planning Basics & Health Care Directives" with Erich Hartmann, esq.
- 10:00 a.m. "What Happens After Death? Your Options" with Funeral Director Anne Christ
- 11:00 a.m. "Funeral/Memorial Service Planning" with Pastor Brad & Pastor Ali

This is an important opportunity for people of all ages and stages of life to begin these crucial conversations and make important plans. St. Michael's can store copies of these plans on your behalf.



Register by calling the church office (651-631-1510)
or online at <https://tinyurl.com/4hzmtdcu>
or scan code

Refreshments included. Suggested donation of \$5 per participant

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Courtyard Room or Classroom 1 @ St. Michael's

The Thursday morning Bible Study meets weekly as we explore Scriptural texts for the coming Sunday, themes throughout the Bible, and ways texts intersect with our daily lives and experiences. This month we will be meeting November 2, 9, 16; taking off Thursday of Thanksgiving; and meeting again on Thursday, November 30.

Thursday, November 2

Revelation 7:9-17 The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb
Psalm 34:1-10, 22 Fear the Lord, you saints; those who stand in awe of God lack nothing.
1 John 3:1-3 We are God's children
Matthew 5:1-12 Blessed are the poor in spirit

Thursday, November 9

Amos 5:18-24 Let justice roll down like waters
Psalm 70 You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 The promise of the resurrection
Matthew 25:1-13 The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids

Thursday, November 16

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 The day of the Lord
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Be alert for the day of the Lord
Matthew 25:14-30 The story of the slaves entrusted with talents

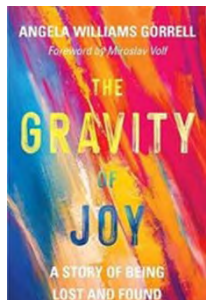
Thursday, November 23

No class due to Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 30

The Gospel of Mark

Faith in Daily Life



In November Faith in Daily Life is meeting on Wednesday, **November 8, 12:00-1:00 p.m.** in the Courtyard room at St. Michael's. The group is reading *The Gravity of Joy: A Story of Being Lost and Found* and will be focused on the Prologue through Chapter 5.

The gathering in December will be on Wednesday, December 13, and will go through the end of the book.

Bible and Brew

Thursday, December 7, 7:00 -9:00p.m.

Recognizing we are moving into the Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas season, St. Michael's Men's Bible and Brew will be meeting once during November and December.

As we look towards Christmas we will explore the coming of Jesus in the four gospels. What does each story tell us? Where do we see ourselves in these different versions?

Feel free to bring your own alcoholic or non-alcoholic "brew" and snacks to share.



Desserters II: the St. Michael's Book Club

Enjoying good discussion and desserts since 1979!

Nov 28, 2023 **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus
The story of Elizabeth Zott, a brilliant scientist who has the misfortune of being a woman in 1950s America. After a frustrating failed academic career, Zott finds success in an unlikely place: as the host of a television cooking show.

Jan 23, 2024 **The Sentence** by Louise Erdrich
A ghost in an independent bookstore in Minneapolis haunts the Ojibwe woman who works there.

Feb 23, 2024 **Give a Girl a Knife** by Amy Thielen
This memoir moves from Minnesota to Manhattan and back to reclaim and redeem Midwestern cooking.

Mar 26, 2024 **The Double Helix** by James Watson
The story of one of history's most significant scientific findings.

Apr 23, 2024 **Fox Creek** by William Kent Krueger
Ojibwe culture is featured in this Cork O'Conner adventure in northeast Minnesota and Wisconsin.

May 21*, 2024 **Hannah Coulter** by Wendell Berry
Hannah Coulter looks back on her childhood, her loves and loss, her children, and Kentucky farm life.

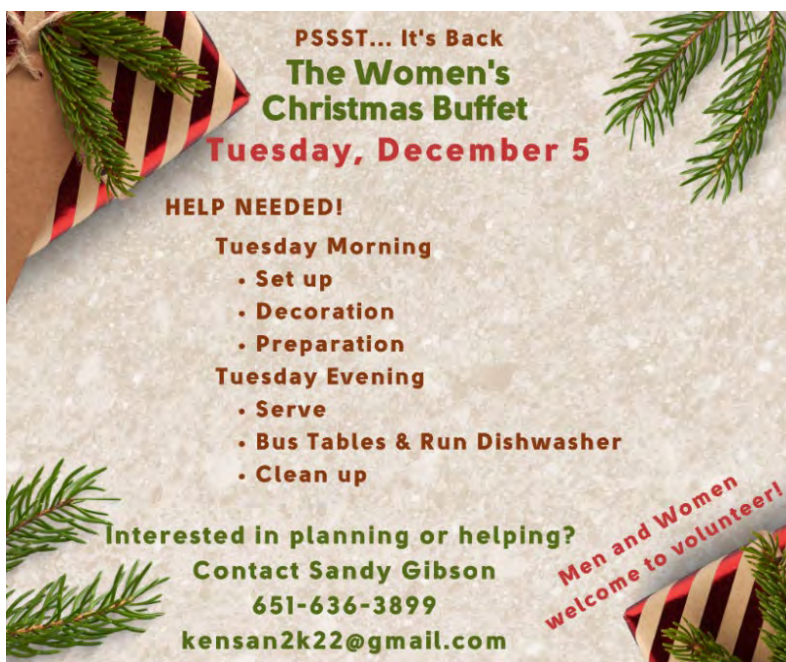
Meetings on the 4th Tuesdays, as listed above. *The May date is one week early.
The group meets in Classroom 1 at the church, with Zoom by request.

Quilting and Bandage Rolling

Quilting and bandage rolling will meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Quilts are made for High School graduation, the Veterans Home, and new babies. We also make tote bags for wheelchair and walker handles. Come join the fun on **November 8 & 22**, everyone is welcome!

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.



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

HELP NEEDED!

Tuesday Morning

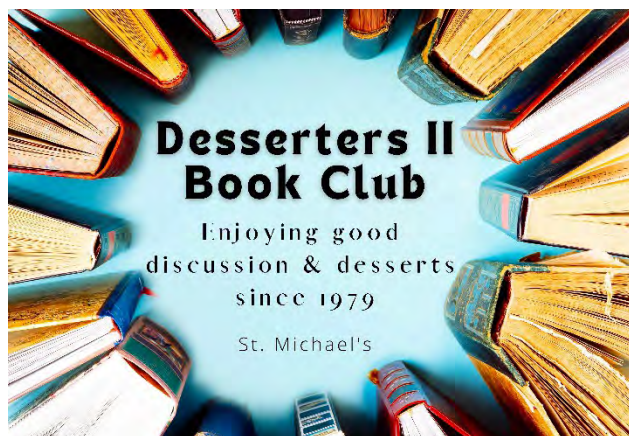
- Set up
- Decoration
- Preparation

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!



Esther Circle

The Esther Circle is a community of women who gather for connection, conversation, and fun! The group meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

The November Esther Circle will meet on November 7th at 10:00 a.m. at church. This year we are focusing our time on the gift of music in the church with the theme: Hymns of Devotion – Join us!



Yoga Devotion

The next Yoga Devotion session runs
November 6 – December 18
The class starts at 6:30 p.m.
Cost \$77.00

Beginners are always welcome! If you would like to try a free class to learn more about yoga, please contact Mary Drache for the zoom link and join us.

Register & pay with this link:



SimpleGifts with Billy McLaughlin Concert



Friday, December 15, St. Michael's will welcome back *SimpleGifts with Billy McLaughlin* as part of their 20th Anniversary Christmas Tour. The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door.
Tickets will be available at St. Michael's in November

or Online now at:



A Church at Work

Stewardship

Since our congregation's founding in 1953, we have been a community committed to sharing God's expansive grace with the world. And we trust the words of Ephesians 3:20 - "*God, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly more than all we can ask or imagine!*" Join us in God's work for the world in this stewardship season by making a financial pledge to St. Michael's for 2024. Your estimated financial giving helps us plan for the upcoming year of ministry and beyond. As you discern your 2024 pledge, here are some options to consider:

- Assess your giving as a percentage of your annual adjusted gross income
- Set up automatic online giving at the amount and frequency best for your household
- Make use of Donor-Advised Funds or required minimum distributions from an IRA
- Donation/transfer of stock

Pledge information is provided in the 2024 Stewardship packets that should be hitting your mailboxes soon (extras are available at the church!) **Please return your pledge by November 12.** We appreciate every gift of your time, talent, and treasures!

Open
for
Good
Stewardship 2024

Church Council Corner

The St. Michael's church council met on Tuesday, October 10, at 7:00 p.m.

This meeting was lighter on action items, but provided an opportunity for conversation.

Some items to note:

- **Correspondence and membership updates**—in September the congregation welcomed 15 new members (including one baptism). The pastors noted, additionally, that we are in the process of updating the congregational membership roll as required by the ELCA constitution. This means sending letters to people who have been inactive (not attending worship or giving over at least the last two years) and also following up via phone call with others who have not been present more recently. More detailed information on the church's membership will be provided at the November meeting and will be shared with the congregation in the Annual report in January.
- **Finance Committee and Treasurer's reports**—Brian Cihacek, treasurer, reported that giving in September was about \$5,000 below budget. But he pointed out that the year's largest giving months are still ahead. Overall a good trajectory, simply want to encourage giving in the final three months of the year.
- **Construction and Property Committee provided several updates**
 - The snow removal contract for the season has been signed
 - A rain garden project is in the planning stages
 - A fence will be built around the heat pump outside the Fellowship Hall
 - The blower damper installation in the Sanctuary is complete
 - A roof leak that emerged in the area near the office has been patched
 - The yearly boiler tune-up is complete.
 - Tree removal in the courtyard is scheduled for November 7
 - Next summer the plan is to move forward with an audio-visual system upgrade in the sanctuary with an emphasis on better hearing for congregation members
 - The sanctuary plaster/repainting project is planned to take place in the summer of 2025
- **Capital Campaign update**
 - Significant contributions continue to be received
 - The Campaign will also be noted as part of the annual Stewardship Drive

A significant portion of the meeting focused on Vibrant Faith & Worship.

- The pastors led conversation around what feels like vibrant worship and the question of "what might this look like in the future?" After the last three years of moving through the COVID-19 pandemic, the congregation is exploring how we connect, what we experience in worship, and imagining what is possible.

The next council meeting will be held on December 12 at 6:30 p.m.

2023 Budget Overview and Financial Update

	September Actual	September Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income	\$46,973	\$60,066	\$582,699	\$578,790	\$868,882*
Expenses	\$53,926	\$71,879	\$608,365	\$663,983	\$868,882
Net Balance	\$-6,953	\$-11,814	\$-25,666	\$-85,193	\$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

The program year has started and there are still a wide variety of OPEN Worship Leader spots! 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".

The above QR code takes you to our Donate Now page on our website.

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 December *Messenger*?

The *Messenger* submission deadline is Friday, November 17, 2023.



St Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1660 County Road B West
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

St. Michael's Staff Directory

St. Michael's Lutheran

www.stmichaelselca.com
651-631-1510

Brad Froslee

Pastor
brad@stmichaelselca.com

Ali Ferin

Pastor
ali@stmichaelselca.com

Lisa Koland

Church Administrator
office@stmichaelselca.com

Natalie Romero

Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries
youth@stmichaelselca.com

Max Gouette

Communications Associate
Communication@stmichaelselca.com

Thomas Bartsch

Organist

Jill Schendel

Pianist

Karen Wilkerson

Adult Choir Director

Charles Preis

Adult Bell Choir Director

Cory Bock

Youth Choir Director
cory@stmichaelselca.com

Hannah & Carrie Bock

Nursery Attendants

Fernando Garcia

Custodian

Grace Berndt & Marissa Breneman

Weekend Custodians