



St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Messenger

April 2018



From the Pastor's Desk:

One image used to understand our theology and our relationship with God is that of dancing. Learning to follow God's lead, to bring our lives into rhythm, to lean into a connection that fills us with life and movement. During Lent we have listened to members of St. Michael's share aspects of their own journeys and faith experiences as they have reflected on "God's Story...Our Stories." We have continued our work and dreaming as a congregation in planning for the future—leaning into where God is calling us.

As we begin this month with Easter Sunday, I find myself drawn to the image of God in Christ moving with us. Two songs have been "dancing" through my mind. The first speaks to the witness of God in our midst as made known in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. "Lord of the Dance" written by Sydney Carter in 1963, invites us to reflect on Jesus' life, which he saw as being first and foremost illuminating God's presence among us. Carter set out to celebrate the Shaker tune, "Simple Gifts," and wrote a new text that touched the hearts and lives of many. This was to be invitation to the story of Jesus and an opportunity to experience vibrant and living faith. The lyrics are:

I danced in the morning when the world was begun
I danced in the Moon and the Stars and the Sun
I came down from Heaven and I danced on Earth
At Bethlehem I had my birth:

Refrain: Dance then, wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He!
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said He!
(...lead you all in the Dance, said He!)

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee;
they wouldn't dance and they wouldn't follow me
I danced for fishermen, for James and John
They came with me and the Dance went on:
I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame
The holy people said it was a shame!
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high
And they left me there on a cross to die!

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I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black
 It's hard to dance with the devil on your back
 They buried my body and they thought I'd gone
 But I am the Dance and I still go on!

They cut me down and I leapt up high
 I am the Life that'll never, never die!
 I'll live in you if you'll live in Me -
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said He!

In talking about the hymn Carter wrote, "I see Christ as the incarnation of the piper who is calling us. He dances that shape and pattern which is at the heart of our reality. ...I sing of the dancing pattern in the life and words of Jesus." (*Green Print for Song, Stainer & Bell (1974)* and *Lord of the Dance and other Songs and Poems, Stainer & Bell (2002)*).

The second song I have found myself humming is that of "Lord, Dance with Me." This is a song I learned at Bible camp. Interestingly there isn't an author or musician listed. This is an anonymous song that has crept into many of the colleges and Bible camps in the upper Midwest. The lyrics are:

This is holy time, we're gathered together to worship you
 and love one another; and as we pray, and as we sing,
 and as we dance, and as we dream, Lord, I ask of you just this one thing...

Won't you dance with me? Throughout the heavens and below the seas;
 up on the mountaintops, flow with the breeze.
 Come, carry me. Lord, won't you dance with me?

The question I pose for you this Easter and in the weeks to come, is how is God in Christ dancing with you? Are you doing the tango with questions of faith and life? Are you waltzing through Scripture? Are you caught up in a salsa of grace? Are you being held fast in the midst of a low dip in life? Are you being buoyed up in the air and soaring high in love and promise?

Easter invites us into dance with words of healing and salvation. We witness and experience again a narrative that empowers us to connect with the Holy, to embrace a God who holds us fast and continues to lead us on through life—as individuals and as a community.

Come into this week, and into this month, knowing that God is dancing with you and in you. God is dwelling in the dance of life and faith and in Easter promise invites us to follow.

Blessings as we dance in new ways in this resurrection season!
 Pastor Brad



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, March 29th

- 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
 12:30 p.m. Worship Service in the Courtyard Room
*A service of Holy Communion with a station
 for hand washing*
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary
*A service of Holy Communion with a station
 for foot and hand washing*

Good Friday, March 30th

- 7:00 p.m. Worship Service
A Tenebrae service of Scripture, Music and Lament

Easter Worship, April 1st

- 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services
A service of Holy Communion and Celebration of Resurrection



Join us for Easter Breakfast!

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

&

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.



All proceeds go towards the youth mission trip to New York City.

Religion in Life

Join us for the following conversations Sundays from 10:00–10:55 a.m. in the Courtyard Room.

Sunday, April 1

No Class—Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 8

Bible: A Crash Course for Parents Part II

Dr. Cameron Howard, PhD

Assistant Professor of Old Testament

Luther Seminary

Sunday, April 15

Women Achieving New Directions

Elaine Carnahan

Sunday, April 22

Morality and Ethics in Today's Politics and Media

Dr. David Schultz, PhD

Professor of Political Science, Hamline University

Sunday, April 29

Strengthening Relationships

Karen Stevensen, LICSW, MSW

Library News

Spring – a time of new growth. Your library can accommodate your new growth through reading.

If you are as apprehensive about poetry as I am, see whether Madeleine L'Engle's *The Weather of the Heart* will stir your spirit. If you are getting tired of the overabundance of our society, Lee Moses

has some insights in *More than Enough: Living Abundantly in a Culture of Excess*. If you are seeking new

understanding about the confusing political/cultural/social landscape, Arlie Hochschild's *Strangers in*

Their Own Land might clear some of the fog. You don't read fiction, especially not Young Adult fiction?

Pursue a new experience – Shannon Gibney, a contributor to *A Good Time for the Truth* which was

central to last year's Lenten series, gives us Alex, a biracial, adopted teenage girl who is a talented

baseball player and who suddenly has to deal with all of these issues and more. And *See No Color* is less

than 200 pages! Maybe it is time to start appreciating art more with *The Art of He Qi* - examples of this

art are displayed at St. Michael's. When I read Marcus Borg's *The Heart of Christianity* a few years ago,

I had the new experience of seeing my exploratory inclinations about Christianity actually coherently

articulated. These and many more resources for new growth await you.

Monday Morning Ministries

Monday Morning Ministries will meet on

Monday, April 9, at 7:00 a.m. in the

Fellowship hall serving area. The group meets

and discusses faith and current events. If you

are interested in learning more, please contact

Pastor Brad.

Women's Circles

Sarah Circle will meet on April 3rd

9:30 a.m. at the home of Bettie Syverud.

Elisabeth Circle will meet on April 4th

1:00 p.m. at church.

Desserters II Book Club

The Desserters II will meet in the Courtyard

Room at church at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April

24th, to discuss *The Underground Railroad* by Col-

son Whitehead. Lois Cooper and Mary Christi-

ansen will host the meeting.

Faith in Daily Life

Faith in Daily Life will meet at noon:

Wednesday, April 4—Chianti Grill—Roseville

Wednesday, April 11—Thrivent Lunch Room

Wednesday, April 18—Grateful Table—St. Paul

We are reading the final chapters of *Pre-Post-*

Racial America by Sandhya Rani Jha.

Social Ministry

Social Ministry April Calendar of Events

Rezek House Meal	April 2
Panera Bread Ministry	Weekly
Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission	April 15
Habitat for Humanity Holy Hammers	April 16–20
Global Health Ministry	2nd and 4th Monday—April 9 & 23
Keystone Food Mobile Distribution	2nd Tuesday—April 10
Quilting and Bandage Rolling	2nd and 4th Wednesday— April 11 & 25

Mobile Food Shelf at St. Michael's!

The second Tuesday of each month from 3-5 p.m.
St. Michael's is a site for the Keystone Mobile Food Shelf.



The Mobile Food Shelf makes the Keystone Food Shelf more accessible to our neighbors in need. Volunteers are needed to welcome clients and help the Keystone staff on the food truck.

If you would like to volunteer with the Mobile Food Shelf while it is at St. Michael's, call the church office or head to the sign up genius to learn more!

<http://www.stmichaelsca.com/volunteer-opportunities.html>



During the month of March, our congregation joined with other faith communities, as well as food shelves, businesses and organizations across Minnesota in the movement to end hunger. This Campaign is the largest food drive in the state, and congregations like ours are the heart of the campaign.

Thank you for your generosity and care for our neighbors in need!

children's & youth ministry events

SAVE THE DATES | SUMMER 2018

JUNE 16-23 | NY MISSION TRIP

9th-12th grades register with Pastor Brad

JULY 8-13 | SUMMER CAMP

3rd-12th grades register online

www.luthercrest.org

AUGUST 12-16 | DAY CAMP (VBS)

preK-5th grade registration opens April 1

6th-12th grade volunteer sign-up opens April 1



FAMILY PARK PLAY DAY

May 6 | Grades 1-5

Inviting families of grades 1-5 to celebrate the coming of Spring with an afternoon at the park! Bring lawn games and meet at Central Park from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. St. Michael's will provide beverages and snacks.

SUMMER CAMP

July 8-13 | Grades 3-12

While the early bird rate has passed, you can still register online at www.luthercrest.org by creating an account. Completing grades 3-5 register as "Leapers". Completing grades 6-8 register as "Wet & Wilderness". Completing grades 9-12 register as "Blazers". Price is \$350. LutherCrest does not charge for 9-12 grades. St. Michael's provides transportation to LutherCrest on July 8.

DAY CAMP

August 12-16 | PreK-5th

Registration available to print off online at stmichaelselca.com and is available on the counter in the church office. Day Camp facilitated by LutherCrest camp. We will need adult volunteers to help with camp snacks and meals for LutherCrest staff. Prices for half-day are \$45 and full-day are \$85. Scholarships available. Student and adult leaders are free. **Register by April 30 for early bird \$10 discount.**

Questions? Contact Amy McGrew, Children, Youth & Family Interim Director, at youth@stmichaelselca.com



hosted by
**AUGSBURG
COLLEGE**

Interfaith Bridge Building Day

Saturday April 14 | 9 am - 4 pm

Grades 6-12 meet at Augsburg College.

Registration forms on the counter in the office. | Cost: \$20

Make checks out to St. Michael's Lutheran Church with Youth Activity in the memo. Scholarships available!

Sign-up by Sunday, April 8 on the youth bulletin board outside the church office!

Save these Dates!

Mark your calendars for the **Progressive Dinner!**

Saturday, May 5th —Cinco de Mayo!

This year’s menu will include Chicken Fajitas and Mexican-inspired appetizers and side dishes.

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**Children’s Spring Musical—Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**  
during both worship services

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Sunday School Teacher Appreciation —Sunday, May 13th

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**Honoring our High School Seniors —June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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Travel with us to visit our partner congregation in Cimiento, Guatemala!! The trip is planned for one week over MEA weekend in **October, 2018.**

Contact Lisa Koland or Joan Felice for more information: Koland.lisa@gmail.com
jhfelice@gmail.com

Life of the Congregation

St. Michael’s member, **Roger Thorsen**, passed away on March 5th. His memorial service was held at St. Michael’s on March 13th. Please continue to keep his family and friends in your prayers as they grieve.

Golf, anyone?

Dig out those clubs; start working on that back swing; it won’t be long! Watch for details soon about St. Michael’s summer golf league. Chuck Hanson has agreed to facilitate the league again this year, and he will be posting information as it becomes available.

Budget Update from the Finance Committee

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Annual Approved Budget	\$821,457	\$821,457
Monthly Anticipated Budget	\$ 68,455	\$ 68, 455
Year-to-Date Actual (as of 2/28/18)	\$183,927	\$138,151



Thank you!

Did you enjoy the homemade cookies during our Lenten soup suppers? Next time you see these folks—let them know how much you appreciated their cookies!

- Pat Bush
- Chris Hughes
- Chris Thompson
- Chris Langer
- Mary Jane DeWitt



Thank you!

I want to thank all of you who sent cards, said prayers, and those who came to visit me during the month of February. I am home now—I still cannot drive , and I have PT—but thank goodness I’m home. A month in the hospital is too long for me.

Thank you again, so much. God bless.

~ Sandy Gibson



St Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sam Koland
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Pastor
Supply Pastor
Office Administrator
Interim Dir. Children, Youth, & Family
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Adult Choir Director
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