



**St Michael's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# The Messenger

August 2018



## From the Pastor's Desk

### Actually, that's not in the Bible!

In 2016 the Barna Group, a Christian polling firm, reported that over five billion copies of the Bible have been sold or distributed worldwide, making it the earth's most read book.<sup>1</sup> Though the Bible is highly distributed and sold, one cannot assume that it is frequently read. In fact, there are numerous cultural mores that are assumed to be biblical but have little or no connection to our scripture. Therefore, as people of faith, it is important that we parse out teachings that have foundational support in scripture, and those that are simply held as sacred by our society.

Here are three popular sayings that are often believed to be biblical but (surprise!) your Bible doesn't actually contain them!

#### 1. "God gained another angel..."

Upon the death of a loved one, you may hear (or have even said,) "God gained another angel in heaven!" However comforting that sentiment may sound, angels in scripture are their own classification of God's creation. In both Hebrew and Greek, the words that we translate into "angel" in English simply means "messenger," and refers to beings that are separate from humanity. Angels in scripture serve as messengers of God (think of the angel that informed the shepherds of Jesus' birth in the Gospel of Luke) or as workers on God's behalf (remember the story of Peter being freed from jail by an angel in Acts chapter 12.) There is no scriptural evidence that humans become angels upon death.

#### 2. "God helps those who help themselves"

A survey led by the Barna group indicated that 8 in 10 Americans believe this is a verse from the Bible, which reveals how deeply we cling to this belief. Though the phrase has emerged from various sources, it was made popular by Benjamin Franklin. In contrast, much of scripture contains stories, parables, and psalms thanking God for God's benevolent activity toward us. And as Lutherans, God's activity toward us (rather than our activity toward God) is particularly important to us, as we emphasize God's free gift of grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). This phrase may have some connection to the apostle Paul, who did provide instruction to his church in Thessalonika, urging them to continue in their work and not to remain idle as they wait for the coming of the Lord. But when we understand the historical context of Paul's letters, we understand that God does not provide material blessings or help for those who have "earned" it. God's favor and grace is a free gift to all people!

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## DOES THE BIBLE *Really Say That?*

### 3. "God won't give you more than you can handle."

Though often said as a form of encouragement to those experiencing hardship, this phrase is not only *not* biblical, but can have an adverse effect for those it is offered to. What this presumes is that God is the one causing or doling out suffering, trials, or temptations like some kind of divine game. It also glosses over the painful realities that much of the world deals with: genocide, war, natural disasters, etc. This phrase is usually linked to 1 Corinthians 10:13, *"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear, but when you are tempted, God will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it."* Paul's words do not specify that God causes or gives suffering, but that God provides a way out of temptation.

It is true that not all Bible translations are the same, and not all people read the Bible the same way. Scripture itself is a living document that can never be read plainly or purely - it is always interpreted by historical context and the reader's own experience and social location. This is what makes the Bible so beautifully -complex! And yet, as people of faith, it's important that we read scripture thoughtfully and in community, so that we can expand our knowledge and deepen our wisdom of who God is and how God is at work in the world.

~ Pastor Ali

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.barna.com/research/the-bible-in-america-6-year-trends/>

## Children's, Youth, & Family Update

Since February, Amy McGrew, with InterServe Ministries, has been in the role of interim staff person for Children's, Youth, and Family ministries.

While InterServe facilitates the Transition Task Force—8 individuals from St. Michael's — we are naming the ministry history, dreams for the future, and congregational culture and values. As part of the interim process they have reviewed "44 Faith Assets" for children, youth, and family ministry; created a congregational timeline going back to the 1960s naming successes and challenges; reviewed St. Michael's Vision, Mission, and Values and how it informs current ministry; and are currently finalizing a congregational survey that will go out to the whole congregation on September 9 (in order to do a S.W.O.T. analysis—strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats).



This summer, Amy is facilitating a "Pray-Ground" with learning experiences for children during worship, running Day Camp with Luther Crest staff, and planning events and Sunday School curriculum, with Brian Thompson and the pastoral staff, to prepare for the 2018-2019 program year.

On, August 28, Amy will lead a training event for all Sunday School teachers, mentors and nursery workers. Five to six more volunteers are needed for nursery, middle school, high school Education hour. Please contact Amy at [youth@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:youth@stmichaelselca.com) if you're interested in learning more.

Later this fall, the Transition Task Force will conclude its work and a Search Team will be formed. Amy will continue with us through this process and then work with the new staff person to transition Sunday School, events, and other ministry elements well.

Throughout the fall you can expect updates in the *Messenger* and e-blasts as we move through the interim process.

## Religion in Life

Our weekly Adult Education Hour will begin on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Courtyard Room.

Our speaker will be from Union Gospel Mission and the topic will connect with God's Work Our Hands theme of the day.

All are welcome!

**The schedule for all of these programs will be outlined in the Program Book which will be available on Rally Day, September 9<sup>th</sup>.**



## Monday Morning Ministry

Rise & shine on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. for our first Monday Morning Ministry of the new season.

We'll meet on September 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the ELCA Social Statement: Caring for Creation (1993)

There will be breakfast and conversation in the Fellowship Hall serving area.

This year we will discuss ELCA Social Statements or ELCA Policy Statements and related topics.

All are welcome!

## Faith in Daily Life

This season we will be reading *The Sins of Scripture: Exposing the Bible's Texts of Hate to Reveal the God of Love* by John Shelby Spong.

The first meeting we will discuss Sections 1 & 2. Gatherings begin at noon and typically last 1 to 1 1/2 hours

September 5: Chianti Grill in Roseville

September 12: Thrivent LUNCHROOM in Minneapolis

September 19: Grateful Table in St. Paul

Books are available at your favorite bookstore.

All are welcome!

## Desserters II Book Club

This book club meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from September through May. **The exceptions:** no meeting in December; and in May they will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday to avoid proximity to Memorial Day.

**September 25**

*Storyteller*

by Jodi Picoult

Hosts: Eunice & Terry Boehlke

**January 22**

*Victoria: The Queen*

by Julia Baird

**April 23**

*Pachinko*

by Min Jin Lee

**October 23**

*Sisters Brothers*

by Patrick deWitt

**February 26**

*As Bright As Heaven*

by Susan Meissner

**May 21**

*A Gentleman From Moscow*

by Amor Towles

**November 27**

*Neither Wolf Nor Dog*

By Kent Newborn

**March 26**

*Killers of the Flower Moon*

by David Grann

## Life of our Congregation



Elsa Clara Schreiber, daughter of Adam & Poji, was baptized on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Annabelle Makayla Reinke, daughter of Joshua & Brianna, was baptized on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Pastor Ali will be out of the office August 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.

## Save the Dates!

- ⇒ Church Rally Day including Sunday School Registration will be on September 9<sup>th</sup>
- ⇒ God's Work Our Hands Day & Church BBQ will be on September 16<sup>th</sup>
- ⇒ Freezer Meal Party will be on September 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ⇒ The Church Bazaar will be on October 13<sup>th</sup>



## Apple or Cherry Wood Needed!

Doing some yard clean up and have branches from cherry or apple trees to discard?



Don't head to the compost site just yet! We need them for the church BBQ! Contact Dennis Skovsted (skovs001@umn.edu) or call the church office to donate your fruit wood needed for the delicious smoked meats on September 16<sup>th</sup>!

## Guatemala Trip Update

The five members of St. Michael's, three members of Trinity Lutheran in Lindstrom, plus one other traveler have been meeting monthly to prepare for the trip in October. We have been getting to know each other so we are prepared for the close-quarters travel; we have been getting familiar with Guatemala, so we are prepared for the rigors of travel; and now we are planning devotions and activities so we are prepared to travel deeper into relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



If you are interested in helping purchase or gather health supplies or craft projects, please let Lisa Koland know: [koland.lisa@gmail.com](mailto:koland.lisa@gmail.com). 612-554-6998.

## State Fair Park and Ride

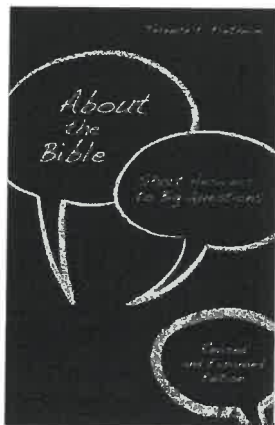
St. Michael's will not be a park and ride location this year. The 2018 locations can be found on the MN State Fair website.

## Library News

Dr. Terence Fretheim's *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions* is a short and accessible guide to approaching scripture.

He addresses questions such as:

- \* "Why are Bible translations so different?"
- \* "Should the Bible be translated literally?"
- \* "Was Jonah actually swallowed by a fish?"



If you have big questions about the Bible but are short on time when it comes to researching the answers, this book is for you!

September Messenger Newsletter  
article submission deadline  
is Friday, August 17 at 9:00 a.m.

## Giving Made Easy

You can now setup online giving through our church website!

To set up a one-time or recurring gift, just head to <http://www.stmichaelselca.com/giving-methods.html>.

*If you are already using electronic giving, you can access your account by using your email address and creating a password. You can make additional gifts through this giving portal or track your giving history!*

Electronic giving can keep you on track with stewardship and guarantees uninterrupted support for our church. With electronic giving you can:

- ⇒ Give anytime, anywhere by using our online giving portal on our church website
- ⇒ Schedule and manage recurring donations
- ⇒ Make one-time payments to special appeals or events, such as youth activities or the altar flower fund
- ⇒ Track your giving history

If you have questions about making an electronic gift to St. Michael's, please contact the church office!

## Budget Update from the Finance Committee

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Annual Approved Budget	\$821,457	\$821,457
Year-to-Date Actual (as of 6/30/18)	\$376,469	\$397,094



## Quarterly Financial Statements

The 2nd Quarter Financial Statements will be arriving soon in your mailbox.

Please take a few minutes to review them. Feel free to contact the church office if you have questions about your Giving Statement. Thank you.

## All-Church Rally Day

September 9<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 10:50 am

Don't miss this time of exploring St. Michael's ministry and service opportunities for all ages! Travel around the church with your "St. Michael's Passport" to learn about how you can get connected this year through service, learning, and fellowship opportunities! Completed passports will be entered into a drawing for gift cards to local restaurants and cafes such as The Grateful Table and Mudslingers!

*Sunday School registration will be a part of the Rally Day event – be sure to stop by the Fellowship Hall with your family to learn more about the Sunday School program and to register your child!*



## Worship



Join us for special worship opportunities on Monday nights in August at 7pm in the Courtyard Room!

- ◆ August 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> we will be using Prayer Around the Cross, a contemplative and interactive liturgy.
- ◆ August 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> will feature global music selections.
- ◆ Following worship on August 27<sup>th</sup> we will have special treats of root beer floats! Don't miss it!
- ◆ There will be no Monday night worship on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*The Pray-Ground, an interactive worship space, is available for young worshipers and their families at back of the Sanctuary and Courtyard Room on Sundays and Mondays.*

## Back to School Supplies Drive: August 5–26

It's that time again—time to collect school supplies for the students in the Roseville School District.



### Back to School Supplies Drive

The collection drive will begin on Sunday, August 5 and end on Sunday, August 26. A list of needed items will be available and the drop-off box will be located at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Thanks for your involvement in this service to the Roseville community. Your help will enable many students to be prepared for the beginning of school.

## Social Ministry

### August Calendar of Events

Back to School Supply Drive	August 5–26
Rezek House Meal	August 6
Mobile Food Distribution	August 7
Quilting and Bandage Rolling	2nd and 4th Wednesday– August 8 & August 22
Guatemala Trip Meeting	August 9
Panera Bread Ministry	Daily
Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission	Sunday, August 12
Global Health Ministry	2nd and 4th Monday– August 13 & August 27
Social Ministry Committee Meeting	August 14
Loaves & Fishes Book Drop Off	Week of August 20

### FoodMobile Distribution!

Each month, St. Michael's is a site for the Keystone Mobile Food Shelf. The Mobile Food Shelf makes the Keystone Food Shelf more accessible for those who need to access to food. 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.stmichaelselca.com/volunteer-opportunities.html>



### Would You Like to Help Feed the Hungry?

St. Michael's is looking for additional volunteers to assist in the Panera Bread packaging program. This could be a weekly commitment or as an occasional substitute.

No experience is needed. We work as a small team each morning at 8:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday. A couple minutes of training the morning you arrive would enable to you provide bread for those in need.

If you are interested, please contact Dave Yarusso or George Beebe for further information.

Thank you for your consideration!

### Day-End Dough-Nation

Panera, LLC shares their unsold bread and bakery products with 501(c)3 non-profit organizations and tax-exempt churches and schools. St. Michael's actively participates in this program.

Did you know that in 2017 our volunteers picked up, re-packaged and delivered bread and bakery products that were worth **\$143,281.97** to Keystone Community Services and Union Gospel Mission. That's a lot of bagels, bread, rolls and cookies!

Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers!

## Mission Trip Reunion Party

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 15 from 6:00–8:00 p.m.

The location will be announced soon.

- ◆ At the party we will do a group de-brief of our trip to New York City.
- ◆ We'll begin thinking about where to go next year. Some ideas offered include Utah, New Mexico, Arkansas—someplace with a van drive.
- ◆ We'll collect reflections from students.

## Confirmation News

Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and a parent/adult should plan on attending the Confirmation Information Meeting and Acolyte Training on **September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm** in the Courtyard Room.

## Saint Paul Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The synod is eager to announce two new learning cohorts for young adults! One the heels of the recent Synod Assembly and bolstering the work of the Young Adult Initiative, they are bringing back two experiential learning opportunities for young people (ages 19-35) in the coming months.

### Along the Green Line: Moving Toward a Theology of Place



“Along the Green Line”

is a six-week cohort focused on building connections and developing a ‘theology of place’ using the Metro Transit Green Line, the city of Saint Paul, and brief readings or reflections as touchpoints. Evenings will be centered on conversations and meals shared at neighborhood restaurants with leaders from local congregations. Topics covered will include: the art of observation, the practice of accompaniment, migration and wandering, displacing, changing environments, coming home—and broader reflections on the many ways we are shaped by land, space, and time.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/2NHqMLC>

Apply:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/IJLmHWJT3X8jFIL52>

### Road Trip: Atlanta, 2019

As our ELCA congregations engage more and more in difficult and necessary conversations about race, privilege, and justice, the Saint Paul Area Synod’s Young Adult Initiative is inviting a cohort of young adults into deep learning together around these critical topics. We will immerse ourselves in media about racial justice and privilege in America, including foundational writings of black theology, contemporary films, and essays from a variety of perspectives. The cohort culminates in a trip to Atlanta where we will meet with local faith and non-profit leaders, visit landmarks of the civil rights movement, share communal meals, wrestle with what it means to live in America in this time, and reflect on how God is calling us to work for racial justice.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/2JeLUVX>

Apply:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/IGCo9UH4cvlx7jNn1>



## Youth Mission Trip Reflection—by Adam Reinke

*New York, New York.* As the largest city in the country, New York City serves as the home and workplace of people from nearly every inch of the globe. Although New York City is the richest city based on GDP in America, poverty is very much an issue.

I arrived in New York knowing that the neighborhood we would be staying at for our week-long mission trip is an up-and-coming area surrounded by several of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the New York metropolitan area. I enjoyed my time serving at both Trinity Lower East Side and Jehu's Table. However, it was one person that I talked to at Trinity's Services and Food for the Homeless (SAFH) that brought my experience into perspective.

As a waiter I was tasked with collecting serving trays and cleaning tables. This job allowed me to interact closely with the people we were serving in the church. I was asked to help a man, Will, who had trouble grasping objects. I walked through the serving line with him and brought his food to the spot he chose. At that point we had been working for quite some time and were heading into the final stretch before the SAFH doors were closed for the day. I decided to sit down and chat with Will. Will asked several questions such as, "What are teenagers doing in a soup kitchen serving meals on summer break?" and "Why did a group of 25 people travel halfway across the country to visit the biggest city in the country only to help poor people?"

At first these questions were quite confusing. I wondered why it was so weird for teenagers to be doing mission work during our summer break and why the size of the place we were visiting mattered. Soon the answers would be clear, this is what we have been called to do, and frankly I really enjoy being able to serve alongside others who are fighting to create comfort for all people.

The conversation continued, after twenty minutes chatting I learned that Will had grown up and lived on Staten Island until he



was 14 years old, when his family moved to Manhattan. At the age of 74, Will has lived in Manhattan for 60 years, but he spoke about the many struggles he faced.

An autoimmune disorder caused his white blood cells to attack the nerves in his neck which affected the mobility of his hands and feet. He had to undergo a procedure to remove the cells that were attacking his body and is required to go to therapy three times a week every week. Although he worked his entire life, his health caused him to lose his home and made him a member of what we call the working poor.

Coming to an understanding of "the working poor" was the most uncomfortable part of our mission work in New York City. I had several encounters that were less than desirable, all of which came as anomalies to the trip. None of those mattered. What mattered was the connections I made with the people I served or worked alongside.

This was my third mission trip, meaning I only have one more opportunity before I head to college. The lessons I have learned on the past three trips have been priceless and would not have been possible without the help of the congregation. Thank you to all of the St. Michael's congregation for continuing to support hands-on mission work for the youth.

# children's & youth ministry events

## AUGUST 12-16 DAY CAMP (VBS) for ages 3-17

**IN ORDER FOR US TO CONTINUING OFFERING DAY CAMP, WE NEED ADULTS!** Day Camp needs 6-12 adults to volunteer with elements of Day Camp like camp snacks and meals for Luther Crest staff as well as serving with 3-5 years olds and K-5<sup>th</sup> grades.

We also need meals for the Luther Crest staff. Please contact Amy McGrew at [youth@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:youth@stmichaelselca.com) if you're able to help!

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 28 | Youth and Children's Ministry Volunteer Training

for Sunday School teachers, nursery workers, and Confirmation Mentors will be 6:00–8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

### SAVE THE DATES

**Sunday, September 9** | Kick-Off Sunday will be a church-wide event and include registration for Sunday School.

**Sunday, September 16** | As a family join in the congregation wide day of service followed by St. Michael's annual BBQ. Service projects begin at 2:00 pm and BBQ is at 4:30 pm.

### FALL EVENTS

#### GRADES 1-5

##### Sunday, September 30 Family Milestones Workshops

1st-2nd graders and parents join Pastor Brad to learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion through games, baking bread and experiencing communion.

3rd graders and parents join Pastor Ali to explore the new Bibles they will be given in Worship on October 7.

4th-5th graders and parents join Amy and Brian to actively explore how to participate in prayer and worship.

#### GRADES 6-8

##### Sunday, September 30 Bonfire & Game Night



Bring your own beverage and snack to share while roasting s'mores and playing night games from 6:00–8:00 pm.

#### GRADES 9-12

##### Sunday, October 14 Whirly Ball

Enjoy lunch in Maple Grove before a game of Whirly Ball – an extremely fun game that combines basketball, hockey, lacrosse and bumper cars! Cost is \$15. Leave church at 12:15 pm; return by 3:45 pm.



For all events, sign-up online or on the youth bulletin board starting in September.

**Questions? Contact Amy McGrew, Children, Youth & Family Interim Director, at [youth@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:youth@stmichaelselca.com)**

## Hometown Annual Bazaar

Mark your calendars for St. Michael's Annual Hometown Bazaar on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30 to 3 p.m.



For 39 years, this amazing event has been part of our church and community. Throughout those years, proceeds from the Bazaar have helped fund needs within our church and in our larger community. You are invited to help continue this tradition of creativity and caring!

- Come and find vintage treasures, books and puzzles, seasonal crafts and gift items, and delicious homemade goodies - including lefse, ethnic specialties, and meat loaf! Buy tickets for a chance to win a quilt made by St. Michael's own award-winning quilters. Don't miss the delicious luncheon which is planned, prepared, and served with creativity and care by St. Michael's members. Enjoy coffee and conversation with friends and neighbors. And, back by popular demand; plan to bid on your favorite basket in the Basket Silent Auction!

**We hope you will attend, but we also hope you can help!**

**This wonderful event needs lots of volunteers in many areas.** Here are some ways you can help:

### We need Donations:

- Craft items - holiday items, wood items, needlework, etc.
- Household items in USABLE condition, including - vintage items, glassware, linens, kitchen items, jewelry, and miscellaneous
- Books - fiction/non-fiction, books for kids and teens, puzzles, DVDs, etc.
- Baked goods and specialty items - cakes, cookies, bars, muffins, breads, pies, ethnic specialties, jams, jellies, candies, pickles, fudge, etc.
- Themed Baskets - Join together with family, committees, friends, groups and assemble and donate a themed basket for the Bazaar Silent Auction (look for more detailed information soon)
- Please note that donations of household items, book, and crafts can **only** be accepted on **Thursday, October 11th and Friday, October 12th between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** Please drop off your items in the Fellowship Hall.
- Donations of bakery items will be welcomed on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and before 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Please place your donated bakery items on tables near the sanctuary door in the narthex. Thank you!

### We need People Power:

This all-congregation event truly depends on help from all of us!

Volunteers are needed in all areas and for all time increments! Please consider helping in these areas: event set-up, sorting and set-up in individual bazaar areas, preparing and serving the luncheon, staffing during the day of the event, event clean-up and take-down. Benefits include comradery, conversation, and coffee breaks! More information about volunteer opportunities and sign-ups coming soon.

Contact Marsha Tofte or Grete Hanson for more information.



# St Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## S T A F F

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**Ali Ferin**  
**Mary Gail Hadley**  
**Amy McGrew**  
**Brian Thompson**  
**Thomas Bartsch**  
**Jill Schendel**  
**Karen Wilkerson**  
**Charles Preis**  
**Cory Bock**  
**Fernando Garcia**  
**Sam Koland**  
**Owen Hamer**

*Pastor*  
*Pastor*  
*Office Administrator*  
*Interim Dir. Children, Youth, & Family*  
*Youth Worker*  
*Organist*  
*Pianist*  
*Adult Choir Director*  
*Adult Bell Choir Director*  
*Youth Choir Director*  
*Custodian*  
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