

From the Pastor's Desk

Visioning and Strategic Planning: A Next Step

This past year St. Michael's has gone through significant transition: the retirement of an incredible pastor (with a thirty-eight-year tenure!), a time of pastoral interim coinciding with a call process, and the first six months with a new pastor. Each of these transitions has brought changes—most smaller, but some more significant.

Simultaneously the Church Council and members of the congregation have been batting around the words *visioning* and *strategic planning*. It is helpful to understand what this means (especially in a church setting), what it might look like, and why we would engage in the work of **Visioning and Strategic Planning** at this point in time.

What it means: Whether you are part of a corporate, non-profit, or educational entity, there has been a movement in organizational development for businesses and organizations to clarify and hone in on their vision, mission, and values. For St. Michael's it means we look at "What is our current vision?" "How do we see ourselves living out this vision (our action)?" "What are the values we seek to embody and live out, and how do they undergird our work and witness?" In this work we take time to reflect on who we are **and** who we aspire to be. This involves intentional community engagement and conversation.

What it might look like:

Strategic planning and visioning can and will be different in each setting. It depends on who is leading this work, who is involved, and how the work is carried out. Here at St. Michael's the Church Council will be working with two congregational members: Chuck Hanson and Patty Bales. They have generously agreed to utilize their professional vocations to assist us, as a congregation, in moving through this process. To this end, they will work closely with the Church Council and pastors; they will also help facilitate congregational conversations. The first steps moving forward have been to:

- 1) talk about this process with the Church Council and create a draft outline and schedule
- 2) invite the Church Council to reread and reflect on the Heart of St. Michael document
- 3) have Pastor Ali, Chuck, Patty, and myself meet to discuss leadership of this process
- 4) plan for congregational opportunities for involvement throughout this fall.

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Patrick Gregg
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THE MESSENGER

Why we would do this work now: In going through the interim and call process the congregation did an incredible amount of work with consultant Jim Pence. There were surveys, conversations, and the work of the MET leadership. This gives the congregation a wonderful “jumping off point” as much work has already been done. Additionally, anytime there is a pastoral change there is a natural conversation within the congregation surrounding current needs and priorities. In all that has been done and in staff change we are in a great place to look at what’s next.

General wonderings: As we go through visioning and strategic planning other questions and emotions will come up. At times someone might feel that doing something “differently” will not show respect for Pastor Roland’s 38 years of ministry and work. I want to be clear that the pastoral staff and council have great respect for Roland and his strong ministry in this congregation and community. There may simply be changes in how we can effectively carry out this ministry, how the community is changing, or the styles of different people. This doesn’t make for “right” or “wrong,” it makes for natural change.

There may also be individuals who wonder about this process. Doesn’t the church have a clear vision (i.e. Going out and baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Feeding the hungry, tending the sick, visiting those in prison?)? Each congregation has particular gifts and ways of being—just like each individual is unique. By clarifying what we are good at or what we would like to be good at, we set goals. Worship, adult education, children’s programming, youth events, justice ministries, building congregational relationships... we look at things we would like to focus on now and, with the resources and skills we have, how we can do them best, knowing that our goals may

also change over time. AND in all these things we strive to carry out the ministry God has entrusted to us in this place and time.

Also, strategic planning can mean strengthening certain areas (growing), keeping things the same (holding), or blessing and letting go (folding). Seeing certain areas strengthened while seeing other things let go can be painful if our heart has been tied to a particular connection. We have to remember that this is not meant to hurt feelings, but it is about how we can be clearer in mission and have the strongest ministry possible.

It is also important to note that at times people feel bolstered by change. This can be very good. However, there are times when this excitement can feel like it is “running over” other people or traditions. It is important for those who have concerns to reach out and talk with the pastoral or council leadership. The goal is for all people to feel heard, engaged, and respected.

Moving forward: the Church Council has had initial conversations at our last two council meetings. In August the Church Council will have a ½ day retreat committed to visioning and strategic planning. They will then begin drafting initial information for the congregation to review and provide feedback at the end of August and first weeks of September. We will work to keep communication open and continually receive feedback from the larger congregation as we work on the visioning and goal setting.

Should you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to myself or Pastor Ali. We are glad to talk more about the process and will continue to provide updates.

In hope and wonder as we look at next steps!
Pastor Brad

Summer Activities

Women's Summer Patio Series

35 women from St. Michael's are participating in this year's Summer Patio Series! To read *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor along with them, head to www.summerpatioseries.blogspot.com

YogaDevotion News

We are taking a break for the summer and will start again in the Fall after Labor Day. Questions? Contact Kathy Nockleby at kathynockleby@gmail.com

Intergenerational Bike Trip



Mark your calendars for St. Michael's Annual Intergenerational Bike trip, planned for August 3, 4, 5 & 6, 2017. Join us in Preston, MN to ride the paved Root River Trails with stops in Lanesboro, Whalen (the pie

capital of our world!) and more.

All ages are welcome for the entire weekend or just part of it. Contact Ron Kuhn for details. ronalduhn44@gmail.com

Education



Children from St. Michael's wrote letters to Veterans ...



...made treats for mail carriers



... and painted rainbow rocks for hunger in their Community Service Project.

Save the Dates



Sunday School will be gearing up again on Sunday, September 10th!

Watch for Rally Sunday details.

Church picnic will take place on Monday, August 28th before our Worship service.

BBQ and God's Work Our Hands Sunday will take place on Sunday, September 17th.

Our Annual Bazaar is scheduled for November 4th.

Discussions of “Sanctuary City” and Separation Ordinance

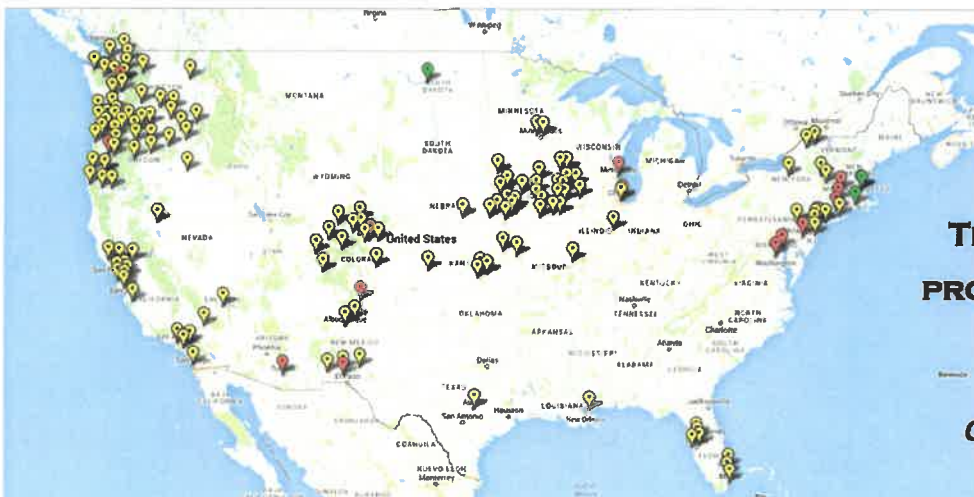
Sanctuary City: The article in the Star Tribune this past month created quite a stir in the city of Roseville surrounding what it means to be a sanctuary city (<http://www.startribune.com/fuse-is-lit-for-roseville-as-state-s-first-sanctuary-suburb/425027353/>). As a church it is important to be actively involved in this conversation and to learn what being a “sanctuary city” means. The term sanctuary city does not have one definition, but it does limit how cities cooperate with federal laws and guidelines. The overarching goals of those seeking this designation are: to respect neighbors (some who may or may not have documents), to keep families together, make sure that individuals are not deported without due process and communication with family, to call for further conversation around immigration policy and actions.

A broad definition is: That Sanctuary city is a name given to a city in the United States that follows certain procedures that recognizes or shelters undocumented immigrants. These procedures can be by law (de jure) or they can be by action (de facto). The term most commonly is used for cities that do not permit municipal funds or resources to be applied in furtherance of enforcement of federal immigration laws. These cities normally do not permit police or municipal employees to inquire about one's immigration status. The designation of “Sanctuary City” has no legal meaning.

Separation Ordinance: The Separation Ordinance would be an official city ordinance to address how city officials and the police department would be guided in interactions with the community and questions that may or may not be asked. The Roseville Police Department already strives to carry this out. Reasons people are bringing this forward: making sure all people are comfortable calling police if there is a domestic disturbance, issue of abuse, or need to contact law enforcement or city officials; creating an atmosphere of trust for all people with city leaders and local police officers (versus suspicion or mistrust); knowing that all will receive respect and care when reaching out, regardless of immigration status.

The ELCA has not taken a stance on Sanctuary Cities or Separation Ordinances, however at the Churchwide Assembly in 2016 action was taken on accompanying migrant children. Information may be found at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/AMMPARO>.

In Roseville there is a petition circulating to encourage becoming a sanctuary city, there are also conversations taking place across backyard fences, via on-line neighborhood websites, and at city hall. As people of faith we can and should take the time to learn more and engage in learning and conversation around these important issues.



THIS MAP SHOWS THE MOST PROMINENT SANCTUARY CITIES IN AMERICA

Center for Immigration Studies

Volunteer Opportunities in the Community



Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul is looking for dedicated volunteers for the “Opportunity Saint Paul” program, seeking to strengthen economic mobility in our community. Volunteers would be matched with a local non-profit and will be connected to a cohort of other volunteers for ongoing education, training, and community building. This is the perfect opportunity for someone looking for highly-engaged and ongoing volunteer work. For more information, go to <http://interfaithaction.org/opportunity> and fill out the “Volunteer Interest Form.”

Thank you!

Dearest friends of St. Michael’s:
Thank you all so very much for the cards, calls, visits, flowers and prayers we received while at St. John’s Hospital & Langton Place during my recent illness. Each card was so appreciated; each prayer gave me courage to keep fighting for renewed health. The meals folks provided were delicious.

Thanks especially to Pastor Ali and Pastor Brad who spent time with my family. We are truly blessed to have them in our lives. Thank you to St. Michael’s Befrienders, as well as my Circle sisters.

With love & gratitude,
Sue & Lyle Jacobson

Out of Office

Pastor Brad will be out of the office for Continuing Education and vacation from June 27—July 15. Please contact Pastor Ali for any pastoral care needs, or the church office for general questions.

With Our Youth

Mark your calendars!

July 23—28

Summer Camp at Luther Crest near Alexandria, MN

July 30—August 3

Bible Day Camp at St. Michael’s led by Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry and St. Michael’s staff

Sign-up forms for camp and Day Camp are available on the Education/Youth bulletin boards.

More details about all three of these events are available from Marta Goldenman: mgoldenman@stmichaelsca.com or Pastor Ali Ferin: ali@stmichaelsca.com

Summer Book Drive

Through the months of June and July St. Michael’s will be collecting books for the Free Little Library at our Loaves and Fishes Community Meal site in Minneapolis. Books are especially needed for children! Drop by new or gently used books in



the green collection box outside of the Sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity!

Faith in Daily Life

Faith in Daily Life will not meet in July but will resume in August to complete the book *They Are Us*. The groups meet from noon to 1:00 p.m.

August 2—Chianti Grill-Roseville

August 9—Thrivent Lunch Room—Minneapolis

August 16—Grateful Table—Roseville

(St. Paul group)

Social Ministry

Social Ministry Events

Panera Bread Ministry

- Weekly—volunteers rescue food that is about to be thrown out and redistribute to our local food shelf

Rezek House Meal

- July 3rd

Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission

- July 9th—Volunteers of all ages meet after church, make sandwiches and deliver to Union Gospel Mission

Global Health Ministries

- July 10th & 24th—Volunteers meet on Monday at Global Health Mission and carry out a variety of tasks from sorting medical supplies, to putting together baby kits, to preparing shipments to go overseas. We would love more volunteers!

Quilting and Bandage Rolling

- July 12th & 26th—Volunteers meet at St. Michael's and roll bandages for Global Health Ministries and make quilts for veterans, clinics, and other organizations.

The Holy Hammers coalition of 15 area churches completed its ten weeks of work building a new affordable home with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity on June 23. We had 63 individuals volunteer as coordinators, construction workers, site hosts, and lunch providers. The project went very well and we completed all the expected work. The family has been selected and they put in some of their sweat equity hours working on this house which they will purchase through Habitat with an affordable mortgage payment.

This year the project was in Blaine where Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is building a total of 8 homes, all on one block within a large new development. All but three of them are completed and occupied. Thanks to all of the volunteers and thanks for all the donations during Lent and Easter that provide our congregation's financial support for this project. The issue of availability of affordable housing is a large and difficult one in our community but this is one tangible way we can help to address it for a family. Look for notification of the dedication ceremony and celebration when this home will be turned over to its new owners, probably in early fall.

Rezek House Meal

The first Monday of each month, St. Michael's volunteers provide a community meal for the 15 residents at Rezek House, a transitional shelter for homeless youth. The next meal is July 3rd! If you'd like to provide a meal for the youth, please sign up by contacting the church office at 651-631-1510 or going to the online sign up here: <http://stmichaelselca.com/volunteer.html> This service project is perfect for families!

Loaves & Fishes. The next Loaves and Fishes meal will be on July 17th. Loaves and Fishes provides a meal for all who are hungry in the Little Earth neighborhood of Minneapolis at Holy Rosary Catholic Church. St. Michael's has a set menu of BBQ chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, a vegetable, bread, and fruit. There is a prep team, serving team, and a clean-up team. The sign up is on the Church bulletin board. Call the church office to learn more!



St. Michael's Receives the Servant of Christ Award

At the Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly on May 20th Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota (LSS) honored St. Michael's as a recipient of the Servant of Christ Award. This award is given to congregations that are leaders in service to the community. St. Michael's partners with LSS through Rezek House, a transitional youth shelter in the midway neighborhood of St. Paul. Generous St. Michael's members faithfully support Rezek House through helping with routine apartment maintenance, yard work, community meals, and financial support. In 2016 St. Michael's gave \$15,000 in benevolence dollars to Rezek House/Lutheran Social Services! Thank you to our committed volunteers and to all who give to St. Michael's. Because of your gifts, we are able to make a positive change in our community and the lives of young people!

St. Michael's Members Are Serving the Church!

St. Michael's strives to equip members to live out their faith in their daily life. Did you know that St. Michael's members are living out their faith by serving in the Saint Paul Area Synod of the ELCA? At this year's Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly, Michael Gregory was elected to serve on the Bishop's Consultation Committee, and Dennis Skovsted has been serving on the synod's racial justice workgroup. Please keep these St. Michael's members in prayer as they serve the greater church! Also, Barb Yarusso led two workshops at Synod Assembly for congregations on welcome, inclusion, and learning surrounding LGBTQ individuals and families.

Your Church Council Corner

- **Property Committee:** After the conversation and vote surrounding a holistic approach to heating and energy at the Congregational meeting in January, the committee has carried out Energy Efficiency and Lighting audits.
Boiler update: the audit has shown that our boiler is, perhaps, not in the dire situation we had anticipated (many parts are still available and others can be built, replacement of the burner ribbon and controls may allow for on-going usage into the future). The committee is doing further investigation around the best course of action for this fall and this coming year.
Lighting update: The lighting audit showed that the congregation can save money by switching the educational wing lights over to LED ballasts and bulbs. The Council approved moving forward with funds for this year coming out of special gifts and the on-going costs being built into future budgets. Over the long-term this will save on the cost of bulbs, maintenance, and energy.
Ramp update: Ron Kuhn and Dennis Skovsted are working on the railing and final plans for the ramp.
- **Communications:** Carol Kriegler and Kathy Enzler are working on a new website design that will provide a new look, additional information, and updates. Carol is also working with the pastors and council on slightly updating the church logo.
- **Constitution Committee:** Has completed necessary constitutional updates and incorporated several helpful bylaw changes, and is now having committees review their names and functions as they would be articulated in the Constitution and bylaws.
- **Visioning & Strategic planning:** Heard from Patty Bales, and Pastors Brad and Ali about current work and council members were given questions to think about over the course of this month. The Council will be having a 1/2 day retreat in August focused on next steps.
- **Education and Youth Committees:** Had conversation focused on plans and steps for the coming year. Pastor Ali and Marta have been working on a document to outline the larger vision, goals, and focus in this area.
Council President, Becky Sorlien 651-604-9444
Vice President, Mike Gregory 651-633-5311



Did You Know?

Newsletter article contents submission deadline for the August issue is **Monday, July 17**. The team assembling the newsletter is scheduled on Wednesday, July 19.

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We want to keep our Membership Database up to date. Some families have discontinued landline use, changed a phone number, moved, or changed an email address. If you have had a change of membership information, please let us know. Thank you!

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“Like” St. Michael’s Lutheran Church on Facebook as another way to stay up to date on community events!

Summer Worship Schedule

Through Labor Day Weekend

Sundays—10 am —Sanctuary

Mondays—7pm—Courtyard Room

No worship July 3rd or September 4th

Reminder: The Church Office will be closed on July 3rd and 4th in observance of Independence Day and September 4th in observance of Labor Day.

JULY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 10:00 AM Worship - Mission Trip Update 6:00 PM Summer Patio Series Small Group- Thompson's Group	26 8:30 AM Global Health Ministries 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Worship - Mission Trip Update	27 9:00 AM Quilting 6:30 PM Roseville Area Churches Youth Ministry Round Table Discussions 7:00 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics 7:00 PM Desserters II Book Club	28 9:00 AM Quilting & Bandage Rolling 7:00 PM Suicide Prevention in Our Community	29 9:00 AM Quilting	30	1
2 Summer Patio Series Sunday Group 10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion	3 Office Closed 4:00 PM Rezek House Meal	4 Independence Day - Office Closed 9:00 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics	5 Summer Patio Series Wednesday Group	6 Summer Patio Series Thursday Group 9:00 AM Quilting	7	8
9 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sandwich Making	10 8:30 AM Global Health Ministries 7:00 PM Worship	11 9:00 AM Quilting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics 8:15 PM NO Church Council Meeting this month	12 9:00 AM Quilting & Bandage Rolling	13 9:00 AM Quilting 5:30 PM WAND meal	14	15
16 Summer Patio Series Sunday Group 10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion	17 Loaves and Fishes 9:30 AM Deadline for August Messenger Newsletter submissions 7:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion 8:00 PM Constitution Committee meeting	18 7:00 AM P & A Committee 9:00 AM Quilting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics	19 Summer Patio Series Wednesday Group 9:00 AM Messenger Assembly	20 Summer Patio Series Thursday Group 9:00 AM Quilting	21	22
23 Summer Camp at Luther Crest Bible Camp 10:00 AM Worship	24 Summer Camp at Luther Crest Bible Camp 8:30 AM Global Health Ministries 7:00 PM Worship	25 Summer Camp at Luther Crest Bible Camp 9:00 AM Quilting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:15 PM Executive Team Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics	26 Summer Camp at Luther Crest Bible Camp 9:00 AM Quilting & Bandage Rolling 6:00 PM Nurturing Relationships Committee	27 Summer Camp at Luther Crest Bible Camp 9:00 AM Quilting	28 Summer Camp at Luther Crest Bible Camp	29
30 Bible Day Camp Summer Patio Series Sunday Group 10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 12:00 PM Bible Day Camp Kick-Off	31 Bible Day Camp 7:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion	1 Bible Day Camp 9:00 AM Quilting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Children of Alcoholics	2 Bible Day Camp Summer Patio Series Wednesday Group 12:00 PM Faith in Daily Life-Rsv	3 Bible Day Camp Summer Patio Series Thursday Group 9:00 AM Quilting	4	5