

October 2020

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Join us for worship
Sunday morning
Online at
[www.stmichaels](http://www.stmichaelselca.com)
[elca.com](http://www.stmichaelselca.com)
and outdoors
Sundays at 10 am
&
Mondays at 7 pm

From the Pastor's Desk

Update on In-Person Worship

Last month, long before the trees in our neighborhood started turning, I was backing out my driveway from in my car when I suddenly heard a loud, *PLOP!* A small acorn dropped onto my windshield startling me. When I looked up at the tree to see if a squirrel was searching for its lost treasure, I spotted it: beyond the multitude of large green oak leaves was a single bright red leaf clinging to its branch. Normally the sight of the colors changing in the trees is a delight for me, so I was surprised when tears started pouring down my face. Before I knew it, I was sobbing uncontrollably... at a leaf! I felt so silly sitting in my car weeping, hoping the neighbors wouldn't notice. Of course, it wasn't the leaf itself that triggered such an emotive response – it was the inescapable truth that summer was gone. Autumn was just around the corner. Soon, winter would be coming and... how much longer would this pandemic last? I'd been trying to stay optimistic the last few months, hoping that our public health crisis would be under control by the end of summer so by fall we could return to business as usual. But the red leaf was sign and signal that I was wrong. I already felt like I lost so much – gatherings with friends and family, celebrating the birth of our child with our community, summer travels, a blessed work environment... all of that now hallowed out by the confines of a

pandemic. Life won't be back to normal by fall or winter, and this realization is painful.



David Kessler, world renowned author and expert on grief, shared recently in an interview with the Harvard Business Review that we are facing a collective grief moment complete with the stages of grief that many of us may be familiar with: **denial** (*This virus won't affect us*), **anger** (*You're making me stay home and taking away my activities*), **bargaining** (*Okay, if I socially distance for two weeks it will be better, right?*), **sadness** (*I don't know when this will end*), and **acceptance**. (*This is happening; I have to figure out how to proceed*). Kessler reminds us that these stages aren't linear and may not happen in any particular order. He also warned against anticipatory grief: looking into the future and imagining the worst - which is what was sprung upon me by that innocent red leaf. Kessler points out that each stage is valid, but there is helpful power in the acceptance stage of grief. We can find control and balance within acceptance, and create a path forward. Leaning into the acceptance stage of grief, the

St. Michael's staff and SMART team have been diligently researching and praying for a path forward for this fall and winter when it comes to **worship**.

We recognize there are critical components to our conversations about what it means to start gathering indoors for **worship**.

Examples of these are:

- **Asymptomatic Carriers:** Basic health screening does not guard against people carrying the virus without any symptoms.
- **Staff Exposure:** An in-person worship would require a lot of logistics and people power. Because we are a small staff, if we were exposed it would seriously diminish our ability to carry out our other responsibilities and would cause a delay or cancellation in in-person worship and other ministries.
- **Staff Carriers:** If our staff is exposed at large gatherings and carries the virus into other spaces or gatherings such as pastoral care visits or studies/small groups, it would expose greater amounts of people.
- **Fresh Air:** The outdoors is our greatest defense against this virus as we think of ways to safely gather as a community. Once indoors, the likelihood of transmission exponentially increases and we are subject to human error when it comes to proper mask wearing, hand washing, etc.

While we yearn for the opportunity to be together indoors and return to a state of normalcy, **the current situation does not allow us to move forward with in-person worship**. We share this news with great sadness but also with hope, that as we learn more about how the virus spreads this winter, the possibility of a vaccine, and greater treatment options, we might be able to resume in person gatherings.

The SMART team continues to meet regularly to discern opening possibilities and if small groups should be meeting indoors. Once we feel confident in our ability to keep the community safe, we will share opening plans for different indoor scenarios such as small groups, circles, etc. Our hope is to resume those pieces of our community life.

Though we will not be meeting indoor for worship for the foreseeable future, we will continue to provide regular online worship as well as outdoor opportunities when possible. We are currently dreaming up fun, creative, and safe ways to celebrate the upcoming holidays that leverage our beautiful outdoor space and possibilities within the parking lot.

Of course, none of this is ideal. And yet we do not want to risk the health and wellbeing of our community, especially our most vulnerable, to gather for in-person worship. The grief of this reality is immense.

Kessler ended his interview by reminding all that it is a good time to stock up on compassion. Everyone will have different levels of fear and grief which will manifest in various ways. I pray for our collective patience as a community to be deepened as we all do the best we can, given the difficult decisions we all face.

May Paul's words to the Romans guide us in this season: "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, preserve in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

~ Pastor Ali



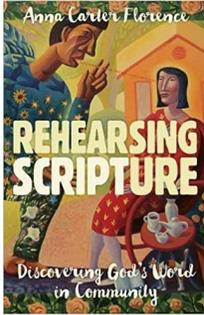
Worship News

Starting on October 5th, we will be using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy for the Monday evening outdoor worship service at 7:00 pm. This evening liturgy will be led by a cantor with no (or limited) congregational singing. Because this worship will take place after sunset, we will use some additional lighting and encourage everyone to dress warmly.



Weather and Outdoor Worship

We hope to continue outdoor worship for as long as possible! Keep an eye on your email and the church Facebook and Instagram pages to receive up to date information on weather related worship cancellations.

Thursday Morning Bible Study**9:30-10:30 a.m.**

This fall we will be using a book by Anna Carter Florence, *Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God's Word in Community*, as we delve into the Bible. We will begin by meeting in-person outdoors at St. Michael's on the patio on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Currently we anticipate moving to an online format in late October, but we may make adjustments.

Date	Location	Topic
October 1	St. Michael's Patio	Reading the Verbs
October 8	St. Michael's Patio	Rehearsing a Text
October 15	Break	
October 22	Online/TBD	Playing Fair
October 29	Online/TBD	Saying Something True
November 5	Online/TBD	Asking New Questions
November 12	Online/TBD	Staying in the Scene
November 19	Online/TBD	Changing One Verb
November 26	Thanksgiving Break	
December 3	Online/TBD	A Truth for the World
December 10	Online/TBD	Fall Wrap-up
December 17-December 31	Christmas Break	

Go Green

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

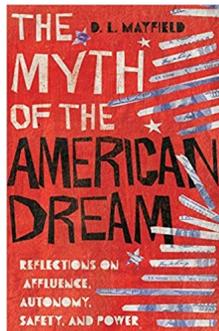
Another option is to receive the Messenger via e-mail.

Just let the church office know your preference.



November *Messenger* newsletter article
submission deadline
Friday, October 16 at 9:00 a.m.

Faith in Daily Life 12:00-1:00 p.m. Wednesdays



Faith in Daily Life will be reading *The Myth of the American Dream: Reflections on Affluence, Autonomy, Safety, and Power*. As we reflect on the past six months with COVID-19, racism and injustice, and the call to be a new community, we ground ourselves in what it means to pay attention, to lament and grieve, to learn, and to change or be “converted.”

Date	Location	Topic
October 7	Online (Group 1)	Part II: Autonomy
October 21	In-person (Group 3)	Part II: Autonomy
October 28*	Online (Group 2)	Part II: Autonomy
November 4	Online (Group 1)	Part III: Safety
November 11	Online (Group 2)	Part III: Safety
November 18	Online/TBD (Group 3)	Part III: Safety
December 2	Online (Group 1)	Part IV: Power
December 9	Online (Group 2)	Part IV: Power
December 16	Online (Group 3)	Part IV: Power

* Note change for Group 2 due to MEA Break (moved to last Wed. of the month of October)

2020 Budget Overview from the Finance Committee



	August Actual as of 8/31/20	August Budget as of 8/31/20	Annual Actual as of 8/31/20	Annual Approved Budget
Income	\$ 59,504	\$ 58,941	\$ 541,607	\$ 814,918
Expenses	\$ 56,468	\$ 66,484	\$ 439,143	\$ 814,918
Net Balance	\$ 3,036	\$ -7,542	\$ 102,464	\$ 0

¹ At the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2020, the congregation approved use of reserve funds of \$48,910, if needed to meet the budget at the end of the year. This is included in the Annual Approved Budget of \$814,918.

7th-9th Grade Confirmation Class

In Person Classes: 7th-9th graders will continue to gather for outside and socially distanced classes on the following dates from 11:30am-1:00pm



Sunday, October 4

Sunday, October 11

Please bring a bag lunch, beverage/water bottle, and a pencil or pen and plan to meet on the patio outside of the Fellowship Hall.

Online Classes: Students who prefer not to meet in-person are invited to online classes with the pastors this fall. Online Zoom sessions will be scheduled around the needs of the families registered for this option later this month. If you are interested in this option, please contact Pastor Ali no later than October 1st. Thank you!

Women's Circles

We hope to gather for an outdoor in-person meeting this month as an opportunity to connect with one another. However, if the weather is not agreeable, we will cancel the meeting and resume with our plans for staying connected over the winter months through card writing and/or phone calling, with hopes of potentially meeting in person if the public health situation changes. Please contact Pastor Ali if you have any questions about this month's gathering.

Please do a health screen prior to attending the gathering. Masks will be worn as we gather. Please use the restroom prior to attending to help us limit the amount of people in the building. Thank you!

- ⇒ Sarah Circle - October 1st at 9:30 am on the Fellowship Hall Patio
- ⇒ Elisabeth Circle - October 2nd at 1:00 pm on the Fellowship Hall Patio

Desserters II Book Discussion Group

This fall Desserters II, the St. Michael's book discussion group, will desert the usual meeting place at church and gather together via Zoom.

Our next meeting details:

October 27, 2020 *The Women of Copper Country* by Mary Doria Russell

Welcome to all!

Send questions to [verena.larson\[at\]comcast.net](mailto:verena.larson[at]comcast.net).

DEI Matters

We welcome you to participate in a new group to explore **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Matters** using books, movies, and more. The topics are geared toward adults and young adults. Reading and watching will be done individually, using thought-provoking questions as a guide. Group discussion, via Zoom, will allow us to consider how and why these matters matter. The purpose of this program is to broaden our worldview, learn more about ourselves and others, and make progress on our journey toward inclusion and equity for all. Meetings will be at 4:00pm and last an hour or longer, if the group needs more time.

The group will be facilitated by Laurie Krachmer, a member of St Michael's who has been engaged in diversity and inclusion work for the past six years and is a trained facilitator.

October 18	Topic: Bias Race IAT https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html and Ted Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/verna_myers_how_to_overcome_our_biases_walk_boldly_toward_them
November 15	Topic: Race (Note: explicit language) Book – <i>When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir</i> , Patrisse Khan-Cullors and asha bandele
December 20	Topic: Race Movie – <i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i> (2018)
January 17	Topic: Race Book – <i>The Grace of Silence</i> , Michele Norris
February 21	Topic: Racism Ted Talks https://www.ted.com/talks/heather_c_mcghee_racism_has_a_cost_for_everyone?referrer=playlist-talks_to_help_you_understand_r and https://www.ted.com/talks/baratunde_thurston_how_to_deconstruct_racism_one_headline_at_a_time
March 28* Note: Palm Sunday	Topic: LGBTQ+ Movie – <i>Milk</i> (2009)
April 18	Topic: LGBTQ+ Book – <i>She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders</i> , Jennifer Finney Boylan
May 16	Topic: Bias Book – <i>Caste: A Brief History</i> , University Press

Instructions for October DEI Matters meeting

Complete the Race IAT before viewing the Ted Talks.

Instructions for the IAT

1. Allow about 15 minutes for this activity. Try to be in a quiet location where you can be comfortable and focused, while using your computer.
2. Click the link <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>.
3. Review the Preliminary Information and click *I wish to proceed* at the bottom of the page.
4. Click the Race IAT button on the left side of the page.
5. Click Continue.
6. Complete the Questionnaire and Demographics questions as you feel comfortable. These have no impact on your test results. They are used by researchers for correlations. There is no judgment, so answer as honestly as possible.
7. Be sure to read the instructions carefully for each section of the IAT.
8. Record your IAT results for our discussion.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

..... 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR

Hi friends,

Listed on these pages we share what the children, youth, and family (CYF) ministries looks like for the next couple months. We will continue to gather in-person and outdoors with weather-appropriate opportunities and also remain connected with each other online.

If you have any questions about a ministry or would like to help with leadership or share gifts, please connect with me! I'm happy to connect further.

Thanks!

Jon Bates / Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

IN-PERSON MINISTRIES

Outdoor & In-Person Sunday School - *through October 25*

Sunday, September 20 - Sunday, October 25 *

9:00-9:50am - Preschool—5th Grade

10:45-11:45am - 6th Grade & High School Youth Group

Thank you to everyone that completed the CYF Registration this year. For our Sunday School ministries we will be meeting by different age groups and times, while the weather remains comfortable. To abide by Minnesota Department of Health's guidance,** our Sunday School experience will be kept no higher than 25 people in each age group.

Please remain subscribed to our CYF Ministry E-News for the most up to date information.



Movie Night at St. Michael's

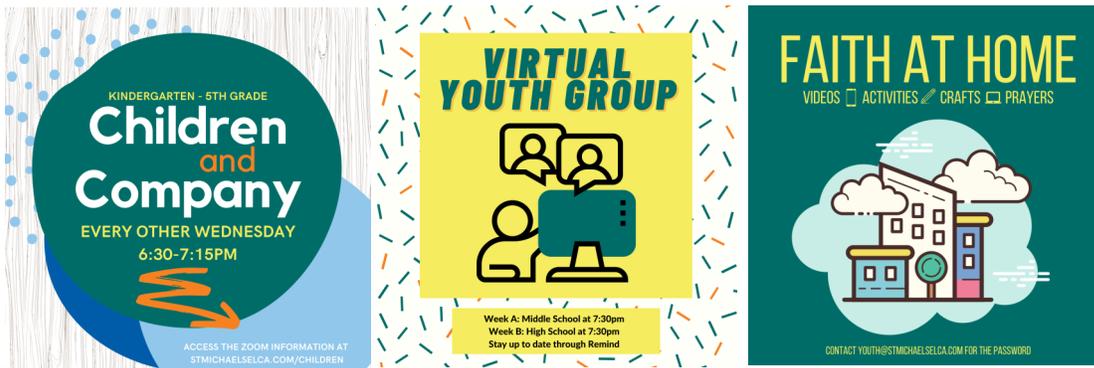
Friday, October 9

7:00-9:00pm

Join in for a movie in the St. Michael's lawn. Bring yourself, a lawn chair to sit on, and some snacks for yourself. Facemasks will be worn during the entirety of the movie.

Faith at Home ministries

Access our online ministries at stmichaelselca.com/cyf



Weekly & Online Faith Formation - Zoom

Beginning on September 16 and on a biweekly basis we will offer live-time and online opportunities for our children and youth to have community together online using Zoom. This will be our online faith formation for our students, especially if the weather gets uncooperative on a Sunday morning.

Week A:

Wednesday, October 7, and 24

Children & Company (Kindergarten—5th Grade) - Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Middle School - Wednesdays at 7:30pm

Week B:

Wednesday, October 14, and 24

High School - Wednesdays at 7:3

Our online opportunities may be held behind a password on our website. Please contact Jon for more information.

Communications this Program Year

To stay most up to date with the happenings of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries please subscribe to the CYF Newsletter. It is a weekly newsletter that has the most up to date information on CYF ministries.

Furthermore, stay connected with us on social media.



ACCESS OUR ONLINE MINISTRIES AT:
STMICHAELSELCA.COM/cyf



Social Ministries

There are a variety of ways for folks of all ages to make a positive impact in our community! Check out the Social Ministry Calendar and learn how you can get involved!

Social Ministries Calendar—October

Panera Bread Ministry	Daily
Rezek House Meal	October 5 th
Sandwich Making	October 11 th at 11:00 am
Food Mobile Distribution	October 13 th (note the NEW distribution time from 2:00 pm—4:00 pm)
Clothing Drive Drop Off	October 19-23 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Roseville Keystone Food Mobile

We continue to serve as a Foodmobile site where the food shelf comes to us so our neighbors have access to healthy food.



Learn more about volunteering with the Foodmobile by contacting Pastor Ali.

St. Michael's Winter Clothing Drive Drop Off

October 19th -23rd 4pm - 6pm



Autumn just started...but winter is coming! Help our neighbors by supplying warm weather clothing for children and adults in our community. We will be collecting all sizes of outdoor clothing such as boots, coats, hats, mittens, gloves, and snow pants.



Bring new or clean gently used winter clothing to church **October 19th-23rd between 4pm-6pm**. A volunteer will meet you at parking lot door #4 (west parking lot doors) to safely receive your donations. **You can also bring your donations to outdoor worship during the month of October.**



Help us fill our green donation box with items for our community! Clothing will be distributed to families through Fairview Community Center and the Roseville School District.

Thank you for providing care and warmth to our neighbors!



Our Guatemala Partnership

Word of the Month	Aprender (ah-prehn-dehr) to learn.
	One way we can grow our partnership is aprender about Guatemala.

Religion in Life

The Religion in Life presentation on September 20 was given by the St. Michael's Guatemala Team. The presentation covered:

- Our Partnership: Accompaniment, our Covenant, and an update on recent events in the congregation of Santa Cruz de la Esperanza.
- The Schools we support through the Guatemala Synod: Colegia Luterano Agustino de Guatemala has a new safe building with plenty of room for expansion, Casa MILAGRO continues the mission of educating and empowering young women.
- The Gardening Project: The causes of food insecurity in Guatemala and the work and successes of the gardening project we support.

The presentation closed with a request for continued prayers

- For Health: Due to the lack of medical facilities in the villages, families are feeling stressed and very worried about contracting COVID.
- For Climate Stability: To slow the effects of climate change so crops can provide income and food for families.
- For Safety and Security: So families can see a path to build prosperity and a safe future for themselves in Guatemala.
- For Strength: For all leaders, from the synod, to the congregations, to the families, as they lead each other through this difficult time of quarantine.
- For the Church: Rev Karen Casitllo Echeverria asks us all to remember how the church started 2000 years ago, as a community apart from our church buildings.

See the Religion in Life presentation here: <https://youtu.be/tL5fwlAYdAw>

Or find it on St. Michael's website here: <https://www.stmichaelselca.com/online-religion-in-life>

Where to Learn More

Watch the St. Michael's website for a new page on our Guatemala Partnership!

Website of ILAG: <https://iglesialuteranaagustina.org/>

St. Paul Synod newsletter: Caminando Juntos (Walking Together):

<http://bit.ly/caminandonews>

Facebook for Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG): [@iladeguatemala](https://www.facebook.com/iladeguatemala)

Facebook for Colegio Luterano Agustino de Guatemala [@CL01AG2000](https://www.facebook.com/CL01AG2000)



**1660 County Road B West
Roseville, Minnesota 55113**

Address Service Requested

S	<i>St. Michael's Lutheran</i>	<i>651-631-1510</i>	<i>www.stmichaelselca.com</i>
T	<i>Brad Froslee</i>	<i>Pastor</i>	<i>brad@stmichaelselca.com</i>
A	<i>Ali Ferin</i>	<i>Pastor</i>	<i>ali@stmichaelselca.com</i>
F	<i>Mary Gail Hadley</i>	<i>Office Administrator</i>	<i>office@stmichaelselca.com</i>
F	<i>Jon Bates</i>	<i>Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries</i>	<i>youth@stmichaelselca.com</i>
	<i>Brian Thompson</i>	<i>Children & Youth Ministries Associate</i>	<i>brian@stmichaelselca.com</i>
	<i>Thomas Bartsch</i>	<i>Organist</i>	
	<i>Jill Schendel</i>	<i>Pianist</i>	
	<i>Karen Wilkerson</i>	<i>Adult Choir Director</i>	
	<i>Charles Preis</i>	<i>Adult Bell Choir Director</i>	
	<i>Cory Bock</i>	<i>Youth Choir Director</i>	<i>cory@stmichaelselca.com</i>
	<i>Wenshuai Zhang</i>	<i>Children's Choir Accompanist</i>	
	<i>Kaia Zeigler</i>	<i>Nursery Care Provider</i>	
	<i>Elliot Polzin</i>	<i>Custodian</i>	
	<i>Fernando Garcia</i>	<i>Sunday Custodian</i>	