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Join us for worship
Sunday morning
Online at
www.stmichaelselca.com

From the Pastor's Desk

The attack on the US Capitol on January 6th was a disturbing and distressing event. As I write this, current reports from the FBI indicate that more violence and attacks against our democracy should be expected throughout the nation. As pastors, we grieve this dangerous, deepening divide between people and communities. Our country needs to heal from the wounds that threaten to break us, and we know that true healing only comes when we are honest, when we do as Martin Luther instructed in the Heidelberg Disputation - to "call a thing what it actually is." In the disputation, Luther makes a clear distinction between what he calls a "theology of glory," which "calls evil good and good evil," and a "theology of the cross," which "calls the thing what it actually is." As theologians of the cross, we believe that healing begins by telling the truth about who we are by naming the sins that contribute to the evil we are seeing around us; the sin we have been complicit to, the sin we have directly participated in, and the sin that holds us captive simply by virtue of the unjust systems we use to survive. This is a time of reckoning, a time of reconciliation, and a time of renewal. Mindful of this, the St. Michael's Church Council passed a resolution at their January 12th meeting calling upon the congregation and the communities we are a part of to enter into a time of repentance with actions of prayer, accountability, and healing. Please take time to prayerfully reflect on the words of the St. Michael's clergy and council.

Resolution Condemning the Attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021



We the Church Council and Clergy of St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Roseville, Minnesota, are deeply grieved by the events in our nation's capital on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, and the rhetoric and events leading up to that day. The seditious mob attack at the U.S Capitol was a distressing and deadly event that endangered the safety and security of our nation's leaders and our democracy as a whole. We grieve the lives lost, especially the two members of the capitol police force who were called upon to protect and serve.

We recognize that for those who are Black, Indigenous, Jewish, and/or People of Color, the day was particularly traumatic, for they have long felt the effects of this kind of terror.

Moreover, the name of Jesus was invoked by these domestic terrorists as crosses were carried by the mob, and banners with the name of Jesus flew alongside confederate flags. Though these images were upsetting, they should not be surprising.

White Supremacist, nationalist, and authoritarian ideologies have long found a home within a distorted understanding of Christianity. Therefore, it is necessary that we as Christians explicitly renounce the evil of white supremacy and racism. We condemn Christian Nationalism as idolatry. We speak in opposition to those of any political persuasion who would promote violent attacks on our elected lawmakers, civil servants, and fellow citizens in attempts to overthrow the government or threaten their lives.

We also face our religious heritage and history rooted in white supremacy, and the ways in which the church at large and our particular congregation, have been silent and therefore complicit in racism. We repent of this sin and commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Joined with the witness of Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America^[1], and our siblings in faith who are part of the National Council of Churches we note, “Our faith instructs us to take seriously positions of leadership, not to lead others astray and to be careful about what we say and do. In Philippians 2:3-4 we are taught to, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”^[2] We approach this moment with humility and an abiding sense that we are called to care for others, in

speaking and working for good governance and care for our neighbors.

Therefore, be it resolved, that we renounce those who incite violence or insurrection against our democracy;

Further be it resolved, that we renounce white supremacy, Christian Nationalism, anti-Semitism, misogyny, and anti-lgbtq+ rhetoric and actions;

And further be it resolved that we call upon our congregation, our communities, and our nation to enter into a time of repentance—of turning from fear, violence, and hatred and from those who would utilize these tactics. We call for actions of prayer, accountability, and healing that would draw us deeper into our faith and Jesus’ witness of living as beloved community.

[1] We write this resolution out of the call to action within the Social Policy Resolution CA19.04.18 passed by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[2] Open Letter to Vice President Pence, Members of Congress, and the Cabinet Calling for the Removal of President Trump From Office. National Council of Churches. January 8, 2021.

Worship Updates

Virtual Worship & Virtual Education Emails

Each week we email out the link to virtual worship and education opportunities separately from the Friday E-Blast. If you have not been receiving these emails, please check your spam and promotions folders and any filtering settings you have. If you still are not receiving these emails, contact Pastor Ali. Thank you!

Mardi Gras Drive Thru | February 16 | 6:30pm -7:00pm



Join us for Mardi Gras festivities at St. Michael's from the convenience and safety of your vehicle! Mark your calendars for a drive thru experience on Tuesday, February 16th. Head to church between 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm to pick up worship materials for Lent, devotional resources for children and youth, and more! Information will be available in our Friday E-Blast, Facebook Page, and website. If you have questions, contact Pastor Ali or Jon Bates.

Ash Wednesday Worship

A Virtual Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be available on Wednesday, February 17th at www.stmichaelselca.com/onlineworship

Lent 2021: Quarantine in Community

This past year of pandemic living has made us all prone to isolation; especially those of us who live alone, but even those of us whose homes are filled with chaotic energy from little ones. But social distancing does not need to keep us from being community in new ways. This Lent we will join together with other Lutheran Churches in the Roseville Area for virtual midweek worship and conversation as we reflect together what it means to "be in this together" as the body of Christ.

Each Wednesday in Lent, a recorded worship service will be made available along with the opportunity for fellowship and discussion between our congregations over Zoom. These details will be made available through our Friday E-Blasts, so keep an eye out for upcoming information!

Congregational Connection & Learning

As we move into this year, St. Michael's has invited members to share ways they can connect, learn, and try new things together. Several members have offered themselves and "courses" for others participate and learn. Whether you have an interest in conflict resolution, travel, woodworking, cooking, or family history there are some ways to engage. Check out several of the options below. We direct people to the St. Michael's website and sign-up genius to register for these various classes (simply so we can gauge numbers and provide updated information on dates/times). There will also be a "course catalogue" with the Friday eblasts.

Register now for these fun opportunities for engagement and learning on Sign-up Genius.

Peaceful Resolutions and/or The Collaboration Effect: Overcoming Your Conflicts

led by Mike Gregory

Mike Gregory is a long-term member of St. Michael's, an expert in conflict resolution & mediation, and an author. This winter there is the opportunity to join Mike for conversation on topics such as peaceful resolutions and collaboration.

Items needed: Readings provided by Mike; computer/iPad/SMART phone

Time commitment: There will likely be two sessions, one on each topic. Anticipate that each session will last 1 to 1 1/2 hrs.

Conversation about Braiding Sweetgrass

hosted by Wally Northrup

Braiding Sweetgrass is a book that invites us to explore indigenous culture, creation, and the bonds between all living things. This conversation is a great opportunity to contrast cultures, see how we might enhance and learn from Native culture, and imagine together what steps we might take to preserve our environment.

Supplies/items needed: the book *Braiding Sweetgrass*; computer/iPad/SMART phone

Time Commitment: 4 one hour conversation sessions. This conversation will take place the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 12:00-1:00 p.m. The first session on February 9th will be focused on pp. 1-38 of the book.

Gluten-free Cooking

with Barb Yarusso

Join Barb as she teaches about gluten-free cooking. In the session Barb will take people on a virtual tour of the grocery store (to choose gluten-free ingredients); share recipes and tips on cooking & baking. Barb has been cooking & eating gluten-free food for 12 years, and has experience from working for a food company as well as a chemistry background, which has allowed to her to adapt and create options that work well.

Items needed: computer/iPad/SMART phone

Time Commitment: 2 one hour sessions

Government: Who's in charge of what & how is it paid for?

with Barb Yarusso

If you are interested in learning more about local, state, or national government, here is a great

opportunity to learn from someone who is involved in this work. Join Barb for conversation surrounding how our different levels of government interact, how responsibilities for things like roads, services, and schools are divided up, and touch on how things are paid for.

Items needed: computer/iPad/SMART phone

Time Commitment: 1 one hour session

Math & Science Tutoring & ACT Prep

with Barb Yarusso

If you are a high school or college student, or simply someone wanting to up your game in math or science, or prepare for the ACT, feel free to join Barb for tutoring and conversation. She is available for math (all levels through Calculus) and science (1-12 except biology; college introductory Chemistry & Physics). She will meet with students over Zoom and collaborate using Google docs & Jamboard (and possibly other platforms). Barb has a PhD in Chemical Engineering; and a 9-12 teacher's license for Chemistry & Physics (prior to retirement).

Items needed: Items for learning/help; computer/iPad/SMART phone

Time commitment: Up to the individual learner (may be a 1 time meeting, or something that continues more regularly)

Woodworking With Kids

with Dave Yarusso

Join Dave as he teaches some simple techniques and woodworking projects that you can do with kids (or simply to work on your own skills). This will entail watching one pre-recorded video and then following up with a Zoom session for conversation and discussion.

Supplies needed include: (no tools needed now. We will discuss tools needed in the class, but know that they will only be basic hand tools); computer/iPad/SMART phone

Time commitment: Approximately 2 hours total (1 hour to watch recorded video, 1 hour for discussion session)

Travel to Italy

with Dave Yarusso

Whether you are planning a trip to Italy in the future, are longing to reminisce about a past trip, or simply want to learn a little more about this Mediterranean country, this is a great opportunity to take a virtual tour and learn from someone with a passion for the people, language, and places. Dave Yarusso will serve as tour guide on this trip around "Europe's boot."

Supplies needed: computer/iPad/SMART phone

Time commitment: 2 one-hour sessions

Intro to Genealogy and/or Exploring Norwegian Genealogy

with Brad Froslee

If you are someone who enjoys learning more about your family, who is feeling the nudge to get a little more information after seeing all of the Ancestry ads on TV, or is wanting to go more in depth in your research, feel free to join Brad for conversations and exploring genealogy. There will likely be two sessions. One session will serve as an introduction to genealogy; another will go more in depth with Norwegian genealogy.

Items needed: Brad will provide basic charts/information; computer/iPad/SMART phone

Time commitment: These are two approximately hour-long stand alone sessions

Keeping Sabbath - A Note from Pastor Ali

It is hard for me to believe that over six years has gone by since I was first called to serve as one of your pastors. In 2014, we entered a covenant of shared ministry that was formalized in my call paperwork. Outlined in that document and in the Saint Paul Area Synod compensation guidelines is a recommendation for Rostered Leaders to take a sabbatical every six years. This summer I will begin my seventh year at St. Michael's and have decided to plan my sabbatical during that time. I have been in consultation with Pastor Brad and the Personnel and Administration Committee, and with their support, have decided to take an 11-week sabbatical starting at the beginning of June 2021. As we get closer to that date, I will be sharing details about my sabbatical plans. But in the meantime, I wanted to provide information about clergy sabbaticals and how this will impact the ministry at St. Michael's.

What is a Sabbatical?

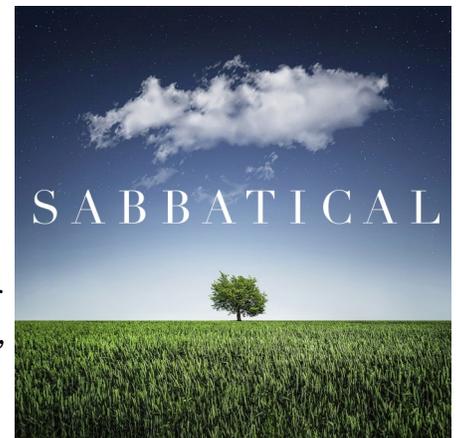
The concept of sabbatical has biblical origins. The very root of the word is "sabbath" - a holy rest. In numerous places within the Old Testament, sabbath is mandated not only for people but for animals and the earth as well. In the creation poem of Genesis, even God took sabbath, resting on the seventh day of creation. Despite the command to keep sabbath, taking regular sabbath can be a challenge for everyone, particularly clergy, for numerous reasons; full day and evening schedules are common, holidays are often work days, and clergy are on call 24/7.

Despite these realities, it is important to not only model sabbath but to take sabbath to avoid burnout. While those in academia may be familiar with sabbaticals as a time to research or write, that is not always the focus for clergy sabbaticals. Sabbath is not additional weeks of vacation, but rather an intentional time of study, reflection, and spiritual renewal. During my sabbatical, I will discover healthy rest through disciplined care for my professional and personal life.

Few other professional fields offer sabbaticals. It is not only unfortunate but it is unjust that vocational sabbath is available for a select few, and not a right for all who labor. Our biblical witness calls for all people to have this time to rest and recharge. Though it is included in my call paperwork and compensation agreement, I am aware that taking a sabbatical is a privilege that many are not granted. I do not take this gift lightly.

How is a Sabbatical funded?

Many clergy apply for sabbatical grants to allow them to expand their experiences with additional opportunities such as travel. However, due to the pandemic and the stage of life my family is in, I decided not to apply for such grants and will spend most of my sabbatical time at home. Each year the church budgets funds for clergy professional expenses and I will use those funds for my sabbatical expenses. The church will budget for additional funds so a supply pastor can support Pastor Brad in preaching and pastoral care.



How will this impact St. Michael's?

The gift of sabbatical is for more than just the pastor. This time away allows the church and other staff to strengthen their identity and ministry apart from me. This might mean some areas of ministry are paused while I am away, but it also creates space for new ideas and creativity to emerge. Sabbath is an investment that the congregation makes in itself; when the pastors are energized, healthy, and spiritually rooted, it benefits the entire community. As a part of our sabbatical agreement, I am expected to serve at St. Michael's for at least one full year upon my return. Though I have no plans to leave St. Michael's, this protects the congregation from pastors using sabbatical time to search for new call opportunities.

I want to thank Pastor Brad and the Personnel and Administration Committee for their encouragement and support to take a sabbatical and I look forward to how this opportunity will strengthen my ministry with you!

-Pastor Ali

Winter Fireside Series

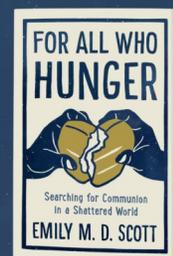
Summer is long gone and patios are closed, but the Women's Summer Patio series lives on! Join us for the Winter Fireside Series, a virtual small group community of women who will gather for five sessions of connection and conversation over the book, *"For All Who Hunger: Searching for Communion in a Scattered World"* written by Emily M.D. Scott.

Small groups will meet on either Wednesday, Thursday, or Sunday evenings via Zoom. Learn more here:

www.stmichaelselca.com/firesideseries

"This is a story about how bread, broken and passed from hand to hand, rescued me from my aloneness. Perhaps you've been alone as well, and need to be reminded that, despite all evidence to the contrary, your aloneness will not last forever."

—EMILY M. D. SCOTT,
author of *FOR ALL WHO HUNGER*



March Messenger newsletter
article submission deadline
Friday, February 12th at 9:00 a.m.

Go Green

Did you know that currently 292 Messengers are mailed each month? In addition, 55 people receive their copy via direct email. Others opt to read it on the church's website. If you want to change your method of delivery, just let the church office know your preference.



ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

..... 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR

faith at home ministries

Weekly Gatherings for Children & Youth

Join in with your peers on Sundays on Zoom.

Children and Company

Sunday Mornings - 10:00-10:45am

Kindergarten through 5th graders are invited to gather virtually together and with company from the church.

We'll join together for a check-in activity and an activity.

Middle School Youth Group

Sunday Mornings - 11:00-11:50ish

Middle Schoolers (6th-8th graders) are invited to gather weekly on Zoom for a point of connection and an activity or lesson. This year, we're covering both the Old and New Testament.

High School Youth Group

Sunday Evenings - 7:00-7:50ish

On Sunday evenings high school youth (9th-12th graders) are invited to gather weekly on Zoom for a point of connection. We'll have a time of connection, prayer, and a virtual activity.

Children & Company Calendar		
Date	Focus	Item(s) needed
February 7	Jesus Heals	Band-aids
February 14	Love in Action	Post-Its and Pencil
February 21	First Sunday in Lent	A piece of paper and markers.
February 28	Game Day	A band aid or something that helps you when you're sick.

Youth Group Calendar		
Date	Focus	Item(s) needed
February 7	Preferential Option for Freedom	Yourself!
February 14	Agape	Post-Its
February 21	First Sunday of Lent	Yourself!
February 28	Game Day	A mobile device. (Not needed but helpful)



On February, 19 create a dessert or side dish with St. Michael's as we recreate our episode of, "Chopped." As a household, you will decide how many cooks you need. The cooks will have one hour to create a dessert or side for the family. One other person in the household will be the "special ingredient provider." This person will choose ANY 3 random ingredients (excluding the bonus ingredients) they want from the house, fridge, pantry, freezer, and attic. Once the items are ready to be plated they will be judged by the online judges by taste and creativity.

Bonus Ingredients provided at Mardi Gras Drive-Thru: Mint Chocolate

Once all of the sides are completed, we will pray and then enjoy our meals. We'll keep the Zoom room on for folks that would like to enjoy dinner online together.

All of our online ministries are password protected.
Passwords are shared through the CYF Newsletter or E-Blast

IN-PERSON MINISTRIES

An Update on In-Person Ministries for CYF Programming

At the time of the writing of the February Messenger, the SMART team of the congregation is getting ready to reconvene to discuss ministries after the states reopening in January. We hope that we will be able to enjoy community safely outdoors in the snow while still abiding by the Minnesota Department of Health's direction.

If in-person ministries take place in February 2021, the ministries will be shared in the CYF Ministry Email Newsletter. We know that this makes it difficult to make plans but we hope that we can connect further online or in-person once it is okay to do so. Please subscribe by going to the website found on the bottom of this page.

We cannot wait to see your faces in-person again, even if your face is covered by a face mask.

Mardi Gras Drive-Thru

Tuesday, February 16 from 6:30-7:00pm

We hope that you'll be able to attend the Mardi Gras Drive-Thru! We will have items for you to enjoy to celebrate Mardi Gras, a devotional for Lent, and more. It isn't required to sign-up for a "Lent-in-a-Bag" but helps with prep and ordering items. The "Lent-in-a-Bag" will have a devotional for your family throughout Lent and a cross that will be built throughout Lent. You can sign up for a "Lent-in-a-Bag" at the link below.



ACCESS OUR FAITH AT HOME MINISTRIES AT:
[STMICHAELSELCA.COM/cyf](https://stmichaelselca.com/cyf)



You can make someone's life healthier and brighter by delivering Meal-on-Wheels:

Meals on Wheels delivers hot, ready-to-eat, nutritious noon-time meals to homebound clients. The Roseville Meals on Wheels program is based at the Fairview Community Center and delivers meals within the boundaries of the Roseville Area School District five days a week.

It's an important service, not only because it provides a hot meal to people who may not be able to prepare one for themselves, but also because it provides personal contact to folks who are often isolated and may not see another human that day.

For many years, two teams of St. Michael's members have been delivering Meals on Wheels. Each team normally delivers once every six weeks on Thursdays, although some members deliver more often.

Understandably, the need for meals—and for delivery drivers—has increased during COVID. Add to that the fact that some veteran St. Michael's team members have found that they are no longer able to participate. It all adds up to a need for new volunteers!!

If you've been looking for a significant way to serve others during this challenging time, maybe Meals on Wheels is your answer!



Please know:

- ◇ Meals on Wheels has adopted COVID era precautions to keep everyone safe.
- ◇ Delivery routes generally take less than one hour
- ◇ You can deliver alone or with a partner. (It's a great way to get to know another person from St. Michael's!)
- ◇ You will help make another person's life healthier—both physically and emotionally.

If you'd like to know more, contact Mike Krachmer, Meals on Wheels Coordinator for St. Michael's Lutheran Church at mikekrachmer@yahoo.com or Tara Garvin, Meals on Wheels Coordinator at the Roseville Area Senior Program at tara.garvin@isd623.org.

Men's Bible & Brew

Our next virtual Men's Bible & Brew will be on Tuesday, February 16th at 7:30 p.m.
Our own little Mardi Gras celebration!



Desserters II Book Discussion Group

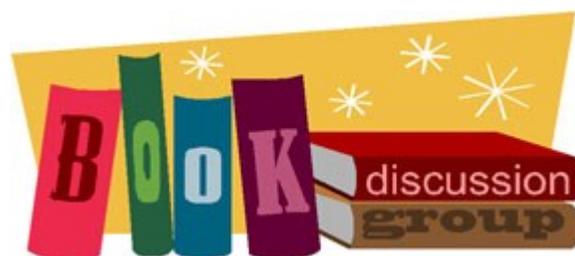
This fall Desserters II, the St. Michael's book discussion group, will desert the usual meeting place at church and gather together via Zoom.

Our next meeting details:
February 23

Title: *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly

Welcome to all! Watch for the Zoom link in the Friday email.

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



Recipes for Disaster!

A St. Michael's Cookbook for 2020-2021



Been cooking more during the past months? Find yourself searching for some of those classic, comfort-food recipes you haven't used since the 90's? Maybe you're running out of ideas and are looking for inspiration.

You're just who we need to help us create the St. Michael's COVID-era cookbook, *Recipes for Disaster*. St. Michael's is known for its great cooks, and now's the time for you to share your best with the rest of us.

The Community Life Committee invites you pull out your favorite recipes and to email them (either in the body of the email or as a word document) to Pastor Brad. Feel free to submit several! We ask that you note whether the recipe is Entrée, Appetizer, Soup/Stew, Dessert, Bread/Baked Goods, or Other; Also, if you know whether it is Gluten-Free (GF), Dairy-Free (DF), or Vegetarian (V) feel free to make a note. Then while you're at it, if there is a story that makes your favorite recipe so special to you, feel free to include the story We're planning to include some of these stories and tidbits in this project, too.

We're hoping to have the submissions as soon as possible.

A team at St. Michael's will assemble the recipes and produce the first edition of *Recipes for Disaster* this winter. We plan to have a version available online and printed copies to share with everyone by March 1, 2021. Questions? Want to help work on this project? Contact Pastor Brad or Mary Nosek.

With thanks to Mary Gail!... ...Welcome back Lisa and Mary!

As we move into February, we move forward with a staff transition. We are extremely grateful to Mary Gail Hadley who has served as our Office Administrator for nearly four years. Mary Gail has shared her welcoming presence, administrative and organizational skills, and care for this community. We are thankful for her work and celebrate with her as she moves into retirement.

If you want to share a word of thanks or care to Mary Gail, please send your cards or notes to St. Michael's and we will make sure that Mary Gail receives them.

Also, as we move through the next few months, Lisa Koland and Mary Nosek will be rejoining the office staff on a temporary basis. As many of you may recall, Lisa and Mary staffed the office during the transition four years ago. We welcome them back as we move through the hiring process.

Lisa will be covering many of the financial and administrative aspects; Mary will be working on communications. You can connect with them at the following emails:

Lisa: office@stmichaelselca.com

Mary: communications@stmichaelselca.com

We give great thanks for Mary Gail...and we welcome back Lisa and Mary!

2020 Budget Overview from the Finance Committee



	Dec. Actual as of 12/31/20	Dec. Budget as of 12/31/20	Annual Actual as of 12/31/20	Annual Approved Budget
Income	\$ 116,804	\$ 108,818	\$ 806,404	\$ 814,918
Expenses	\$ 63,917	\$ 67,007	\$ 735,783	\$ 814,918
Net Balance	\$ 52,887	\$ 41,811	\$ 70,621	\$ 0

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.

Note: At the end of 2020 we did not need to utilize any reserve funds.

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—February

Panera Bread—Daily

Food Mobile Distribution—February 9

Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission—February 14

Rezek Welcome Home Shower Drop Off - February 16

Sandwich Making Volunteers

We are looking for one additional volunteer/household to help with monthly sandwich making for the Union Gospel Mission. Sandwiches are distributed to our hungry neighbors at the St. Paul Union Gospel Mission. Volunteering happens on the second Sunday of every month. Due to the pandemic, we have had to limit the number of volunteers to ensure we can keep distanced. Volunteers will be spread out between the kitchen and serving area, and face masks and gloves are required. Head to <https://www.stmichaelselca.com/local> or contact Pastor Ali to learn more.

Need Support?



Reaching out for support or help can be the most difficult step in getting care, especially during this season of isolation. The BeFriender team is here to help and provide a caring (virtual) presence to accompany you, no matter what journey of life you are on. If you'd like to learn more about what it means to have a BeFriender, contact one of the pastors to learn more. You are worthy of love and deserve support through this difficult season.

Mask Up!



Friendly reminder: EVERYONE entering the church building is required to wear a mask covering both their nose and mouth.

This includes walking in the hallway, even if it's "just for a quick errand."

Thank you!

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 6 years and is a trained facilitator.

February 21	Topic: Racism Ted Talks https://www.ted.com/talks/heather_c_mcgee_racism_has_a_cost_for_everyone?referrer=playlist-talks_to_help_you_understand_r and https://www.ted.com/talks/bara-tunde_thurston_how_to_deconstruct_racism_one_headline_at_a_time
March 28* Note: Palm Sunday	Topic: LGBTQ+ Movie – Milk (2009)
April 18	Topic: LGBTQ+ Book – <i>She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders</i> , Jennifer Finney Boylan
May 16	Topic: Bias <i>Caste: A Brief History</i> , University Press

Instructions for February 21 DEI Matters Pre-work and Zoom Meeting

Each month, participants will read, watch, and complete activities and reflect on the questions prior to the Zoom meeting. The Zoom link will be in the Friday e-blast to log into the meeting.

Topic	Racism
Pre-work	<p>1. Watch 2 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</p> <p>2. Read article https://medium.com/@fejguy/what-pro-trump-rioters-and-black-lives-matter-have-in-common-96d7c32deb7b</p> <p>3. Reflect on these questions <i>Racism Has a Cost for Everyone</i> “Racism leads to bad policy-making; it’s making our economy worse and not just in ways that disadvantage people of color. Racism is bad for white people, too.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What examples do you see in your own life? • What examples do you see in our community? <p>What examples do you see in our church?</p> <p><i>How to Deconstruct Racism One Headline at a Time</i> Play the game and bring your example to the discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find a headline • Reverse the roles of the subject and target • Increase the believability of reversal of the activity <p>Change the action</p> <p>“Reversing the flow of injustice is not justice; it’s vengeance.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where have you seen the reversal of the flow of injustice? <p>How have you been involved in the reversal of the flow of injustice?</p> <p>“See the structure and where the power is in it. See the humanity of those targeted by these structures. We can change the action, which changes the story, which changes the system.”</p> <p>What is one way you can change the action?</p> <p><i>What Pro-Trump Rioters and Black Lives Matter Have in Common</i> How did this article make you feel? In what ways do you agree and/or disagree with the author?</p> <p>General Reflection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you understand better or differently? • What do you understand less well? • What do you want to DO as a result of watching, reading, and/or discussion?

Thursday Morning Bible Study**Winter/Spring 2021**

Having read Anna Carter Florence's book, *Rehearsing Scripture*, in the fall, we will jump into reading lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday as we engage the texts and practice reading, rehearsing, and discussing scripture together. Here are the texts for January and February and the meeting dates for the winter/spring. Note: we will be using a new Zoom link for the winter/spring—it can be found in the Friday eblast.

February 4**Isaiah 40:21-31***The creator of all cares for the powerless***Psalm 147:1-11, 20c***The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)***1 Corinthians 9:16-23***A servant for the sake of the gospel***Mark 1:29-39***The healing of Peter's mother-in-law***February 11****2 Kings 2:1-12***Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha***Psalm 50:1-6***Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)***2 Corinthians 4:3-6***God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ***Mark 9:2-9***Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son***February 18****Genesis 9:8-17***The rainbow, sign of God's covenant***Psalm 25:1-10***Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)***1 Peter 3:18-22***Saved through water***Mark 1:9-15***The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days***February 25****Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16***God blesses Abraham and Sarah***Psalm 22:23-31***All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)***Romans 4:13-25***The promise to those who share Abraham's faith***Mark 8:31-38***The passion prediction***Future dates:****March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25***April 1 (No Text Study: Maundy Thursday)***April 8, April 15, April 22, April 29****May 6, May 13 (Last Session for the Winter/Spring)**

Faith in Daily Life

Winter Spring 2021

Over the course of the last 100 years we have seen the movement of White Evangelicals as a significant faction in the United States and the development and mobilization into a voting bloc in politics. There are roots in anti-intellectualism, anti-elitism, and push back against the social gospel movement of the late 1800s and early 1900s. In *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*, Kristin Kobes Du Mez explores the ideas and movement that have propelled this phenomenon in American civil, religious, and political life. Join in conversation as we discuss this book and how we can learn, converse, and strive to heal a fractured nation.

We will have two Faith in Daily Life groups meet online this winter and spring (***the first and third Wednesdays of the month***). Feel free to join either group for conversation. The hope is to be able to begin gathering in person later this winter/spring, if possible.

February 3 Chapters 5-8
February 17 Chapters 5-8

March 3 Chapters 9-12
March 17 Chapters 9–12

April 7 Chapters 13-16
April 21 Chapters 13-16

May 5 Conclusion & Next Steps
May 19 Conclusion & Next steps

Resolution of Thanks to St. Michael's Staff

St. Michael's is blessed to have a strong team of dedicated staff that creates a wonderful place to worship and serve our community. In 2020 we experienced a year unlike any other, and the staff at St. Michael's brought energy, creativity, and provided ways to 'be church' amidst all of the changes and challenges. Individuals excelled in their roles and stepped beyond them when needed. We give great thanks for their leadership and commitment during this pandemic year. Therefore, be it

resolved that we thank God for:

- the spiritual leadership, passion, commitment to service, gift of preaching, messages of understanding and hope, steadfastness, and staff guidance (Pastor Brad and Pastor Ali)
- the ministry and leadership for children, youth and families (Jon, Brian and Kaia)
- the phenomenal gift of music from (Karen, Cory, Charlie, Tom, Jill and Wenshuai)
- the wonderful and diligent office administration work (Mary Gail)
- the supportive work for our physical structure (Elliot, Sam, Fernando)
- the talent for managing technology tools for outreach to the congregation (Bill, Jon)

Thanks to the staff for their service:

- **Brad Froslee**, Pastor
- **Ali Ferin**, Pastor
- **Jon Bates**, Director of Children's, Youth, & Family Ministry
- **Mary Gail Hadley**, Office Administrator
- **Kaia Zeigler**, Nursery Supervisor
- **Karen Wilkerson**, Adult Choir Director
- **Charlie Preis**, Adult Bell Choir Director
- **Jill Schendel**, Pianist
- **Tom Bartsch**, Organist
- **Cory Bock**, Children and Youth Choir/Bell Director
- **Wenshuai Zhang**, Youth Choir Accompanist
- **Brian Thompson**, Children and Youth Ministries Associate
- **Fernando Garcia**, Weekend Custodian
- **Sam Koland**, Weekend Custodian
- **Elliot Polzin**, Custodian
- **Bill O'Connor**, Videographer/Video Editor

Resolution of Thanks to St. Michael's Community

The St. Michael's Church Council continually witnesses the gifts, talents, and commitment of those who comprise our community of faith. It is this network of people that gives life to worship, care, learning, music, and service. Throughout this year the community has drawn together to face fear with abundant love; adversity with a greater sense of commitment. We, the congregational council, give thanks for the people of this congregation and the living out of faith during this pandemic year. Therefore, be it resolved that we thank God for:

- the dedicated members of our Congregation and all who serve on Committees
- all of the gracious members of our congregation who so willingly give their time, resources and themselves in the ministry of the church

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