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News from

the SMART Team

On pages 8-9 of this *Messenger*, you'll find a chart created by St. Michael's SMART Team (St. Michael's Assessment & Reopening Team) outlining stages for our congregation's reopening protocol.

To help with reading the chart, we're currently in Phase 3. We hope to be able to move to Phase 4, Stage 1, by late May.

Join us for worship
Sunday morning

Online at
www.stmichaelselca.com



From the Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Brad Froslee

The Easter Vigil

While on internship in Oakland, California, in 2001-2002, I attended my first Easter Vigil. This was a new experience for me, yet was extremely profound. At 10 p.m. I gathered with nearly 100 people outside the doors of University Lutheran Chapel in Berkeley. A new fire was burning, and God's enduring presence was proclaimed as we gathered around the fire.

The opening words of the Easter Vigil in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) proclaim: "Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever. **Amen.**"

The presiding minister then proclaims "The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of

our hearts and minds." After which a procession begins. Some congregations walk around the entirety of the outside of their building; others move into the narthex and sanctuary. Yet, along the



way they sing, quietly at first, "The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**" And then move further into the sanctuary and sing at a slightly higher tone and perhaps a little louder, "The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**" And then finally lifting the light high and placing it in the pascal candle holder and singing at a higher tone and again possibly louder "The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**"

This opening of the Easter Vigil is a powerful enactment of Christ's light meeting us in the night and drawing us into a promise of new life.

My guess is that you, like me, are longing to see that light breaking in at the end of this Lent, but more significantly this year, we have just lived through.

Pandemic, SMART Team, and reopening

Continued on next page

Two weeks ago, we marked the one-year anniversary of closing our building for in-person worship services, of staff moving to remote work, and of significant shifts in programming and operations due to COVID-19 and the pandemic around the world.

The world has experienced nearly 2,700,000 deaths due to COVID-19 and over 535,000 in the United States.

At St. Michael's, with the guidance of the SMART team, Council, and pastoral staff, we have made difficult decisions for the sake of the health, safety, and well-being of ourselves and others. We will need to continue to make difficult decisions, but at this moment it feels like we are gathering at the new fire and proclaiming the presence of God that has moved with us through the year. We are lifting high the paschal candle and exclaiming the life of Christ. And we are being drawn in new ways into the promise of Easter and resurrected life—today... and always.

As shared in the recent emails, on Sunday, February 28, the SMART team met to review where we are at and next steps. Building off the work by health care professionals, the CDC, and the Minnesota Department of Health, we are now ready to begin taking steps towards reopening--

pending vaccination schedules, positivity rates, new variant cases, and on-going local and national recommendations.

It is anticipated that we, in the country, will turn a corner by the end of this month as vaccination rates rise quickly. This will tentatively allow us to begin gathering in some small groups *next month* and to hold in-person worship services by the end of May. We want to emphasize that these smaller in-person gatherings and worship services will not feel *normal* as strict safety protocols will be followed.

This does mean that this year's Holy Week services will continue to be different--online services, Zoom services, a Passion Walk, and outdoor worship service options on Good Friday and Easter (weather permitting). We are in the place of metaphorically, slowly and quietly chanting "The light of Christ." And preparing to raise our voices and tone a little bit more as we move toward shared small group community events...and then boldly looking for that long-awaited return to our shared worship space and larger community events.

We stand at a figurative precipice of Easter and the promise of life resurrected. And today that feels good and hopeful.

Join us for a Passion Walk on April 3, at 9 a.m.

The day before Easter is known as Holy Saturday; a solemn day that provides space for us to pause and reflect. On this day between the crucifixion and the resurrection, we are typically busy with Easter preparations at church and in our homes. However, this year we know will be different. With our typical traditions on hold, we invite you to join us for a socially-distanced outdoor embodied devotional activity for all ages.



The Passion Walk is a roughly 2.6 mile walk that will recount Jesus' final hours. With stops for scripture and reflection along the way, we will start at **9 a.m. will begin and end our walk at St. Michael's.**

Why 2.6 miles? In Jesus' final hours he made various stops throughout Jerusalem - the Last Supper, the Mount of Olives, Herod's palace, and more. Though tracking the historical sites and distances in Jerusalem is difficult, there are "venerated" sites where pilgrims gather to remember the life of Jesus. These stops, from the final supper to the crucifixion at Golgotha, equal roughly 2.6 miles.

Strollers are recommended for young ones. Masks will be required, though we will do our best to remain distant from one another as we walk and reflect as a group. Plan on dressing for the weather!

Holy Week Happenings

Join us for Holy Week worship and festivities! Up-to-date information will be available at www.stmichaelselca.com/holyweek



Palm Sunday Join us on Sunday, March 28, for our Palm Sunday drive through from 10-10:30 a.m. During the drive through, you can receive worship materials for Holy Week and greet the Palm Sunday donkey! Plan to enter the parking lot from Fry Street and exit on Midlothian. You must stay in your vehicle and wear masks as volunteers approach your vehicle. (Online Palm Sunday worship also will be available on March 28.)



Maundy Thursday Maundy Thursday worship will be held over Zoom at 7 p.m. Zoom information will be provided in the Friday Flyer and the Holy Week Worship Email. If you do not receive those email communications or need help using Zoom, please contact the church office.



Good Friday There will be a brief outdoor Good Friday worship service (weather permitting) held in the parking lot at noon on April 2. Participants must wear masks and practice social distancing. It is recommended to bring your own chair. An online Good Friday worship service will be made available on April 2.



Holy Saturday At 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 3, we will be hosting a Passion Walk, a three-mile walk that will recount Jesus' final hours. With stops for scripture and reflection along the way, we will begin and end our walk at St. Michael's. This is an interactive way to experience the Passion story for all ages. Masks are required. (Find more information about this event on page 2)



Easter Sunday There are two opportunities to celebrate the resurrection of Christ with St. Michael's! An online Easter service will be made available, and an outdoor worship service will be held at 11 a.m. in the parking lot (weather permitting). Masks and social distancing are required.



Worship Updates

Weekly Sunday Worship

Each week the worship service is posted online at www.stmichaelselca.com/onlineworship. Additionally, an email is sent out each week for virtual worship and educational opportunities, separately from the Friday Flyer. If you have not been receiving these emails, please check your spam and promotions folders and any filtering setting you have. If you are still not receiving these emails, contact Pastor Ali. Thank you!

Congregational Connection & Learning

This month we continue and complete opportunities for folks at St. Michael's to explore **Congregational Connection & Learning**. Courses have been well received so far, and there is still opportunity to participate. This is a great time to see others in the congregation on Zoom, learn, and try new things (or share in an interest). Several members have offered to lead "courses." So, check out the opportunities to engage during late March and April.

Check out the options...then register on Sign-up Genius.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084aaba72fa6fd0-community>

The Collaboration Effect: Overcoming Your Conflicts

Thursday, April 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Including discussion

Mike Gregory is a long-term member of St. Michael's and skilled in working with individuals and teams to find avenues of working together and overcoming challenges. This season there is the opportunity to join Mike for conversation on collaboration.

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

Conversation on *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

facilitated by Wally Northrup

Tuesdays April 13, May 11

12:00-1:00 p.m.

The following essays from the book will be discussed for each week:

April 13: Allegiance to Gratitude, The Three Sisters **May 11:** The Teachings of Grass, Maple Nation Citizenship Guide

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: Three one-hour sessions. This conversation will take place the second Tuesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. (**Offerings continued on next page.**)

A note of thanks from Mary Gail

Recently, we received this message from Mary Gail Hadley, our office administrator who retired earlier this year:

Dear St. Michael's Church,

Thank you for adding to the joy of my retirement with your well-wishes and gifts. I've enjoyed working in the church office these past four years and will always remember your kindness.

Take care.

Mary Gail Hadley.



Exploring Norwegian Genealogy

with Brad Froslee

Sunday, April 11, 4 p.m.

Many Minnesotans have ties to Norway. If you want to learn ways to explore Norwegian genealogy and connect with resources available to go further in your own family history, feel free to join the conversation.

Items needed: Brad will provide information; computer/ipad/SMART phone

Time commitment: 1 hour-long session

Brad is also willing to provide some assistance to individuals in following up after the session.

Math & Science Tutoring/ACT Prep

with Barb Yarusso

Sign-up; times will be set-up between Barb and individuals

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 and physics). She will meet with students over Zoom and collaborate using Google Docs and Jamboard (and possibly other platforms). Barb has a PhD in chemical Engineering; and a 9-12 teacher's license for chemistry and physics (prior to retirement).

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

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

Growing Through Loss series begins on April 6

At Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Mounds View

A new Growing through Loss series begins at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, 8211 Red Oak Drive, Mounds View, MN.

Growing through Loss is a six-week series that provides information and support for a variety of loss and grief issues.

Each session begins with a presentation by a professional from the community, followed by small groups facilitated by leaders who understand the grieving process.

Although there is no cost, donations are welcome. Registration takes place each evening before the program. Church affiliation is not necessary. Each session is complete in itself; attend any or all sessions.

We will be following Abiding Savior Lutheran Church's facility use policy during this pandemic. Child care will not be provided for safety reasons. Please wear a face mask.

Call 763-755-5335 or visit www.growingthroughloss.org for more information. The series runs from April 6 through May 11 from 6:45 to 9 p.m.



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 p.m. and last an hour or longer, if the group needs more time.

The group will be facilitated by Laurie Krachmer, founder of DEI Matters LLC and 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.

April 18 **Topic: LGBTQ+ (Note: explicit language and sexual content)**

Book – *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*, Jennifer Finney Boylan

May 16 **Topic: Caste (note change of book)**

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents, Isabel Wilkerson

Instructions for April 18 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. Use the Zoom link below (also in the weekly Friday Flyer) to log into the meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86946206857?pwd=Ui9QOGp4dURmdG45dXZyV2RSc0djQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 4620 6857

Passcode: 821130

Topic	LGBTQ+
Pre-work	<p>Read <i>She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders</i></p> <p>Reflect on these questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What language do you want clarified regarding sexual orientation and/or gender identity? • What are your feelings regarding Boylan having a choice to become a woman to the world? • What is your personal experience with transgender people? • Have you known someone who made a gender transition? How did the change affect people who knew the person before? • Did you identify with Boylan more or less than you expected? • What do you remember about your earliest sense of your identity? • How often do you feel that what the world sees in you is at odds with what you know to be true? <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 reading and/or discussion?



**Our
Guatemala
Partnership**

Travel Update

Both ILAG and SPAS anticipate that partnership visits to the villages will not resume until 2023 due to the difficulties of vaccinating the remote villages.
If travelling in 2023 fits into your plans, let Lisa Koland know you are interested.

News from Cimiento

ILAG staff were allowed to visit a number of villages in March, including Cimiento. "With the blessing of God we were able to meet our brothers and sisters!" Our friends are well and made a video to share with us. Watch the Friday Flyer for information on viewing the video in April.



Save the Date! Guatemala Gala!

May 2 will be the date of the Guatemala Gala this year. The event will be live online and depending on vaccination status, some group gatherings to watch together may be allowed! The theme this year is Education. Watch for more information to come!

Where to Learn More

Website of ILAG: <https://iglesiaaluteranaagustina.org/>
Facebook for Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG): [@iladeguatemala](https://www.facebook.com/iladeguatemala)

The deadline for submitting items for the May Messenger is Friday, April 16, 2021.
Contact the church office(office@stmichaelselca.com) ,
Pastor Brad (brad@stmichealselca.com),
Pastor Ali (ali@stmichaelselca.com) or
Mary Nosek (communication@stmichaelselca.com)

COVID-19 Chart: Currently, St. Michaels's is operating at Phase 3. O

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Worship: Virtual Only	Worship: Virtual, Outdoor with masks, social distancing, limited numbers	Worship: Virtual, Outdoor with masks (weather-permitting, beginning in May), physical distancing, 250 people or less; drive-through opportunities
Music: Virtual only	Worship: Virtual, outdoor with masks, indoor recording of individuals or family groups for pre-recorded worship.	Music: Virtual, outdoor with masks, small groups for purposes of recording for worship or rehearsal. Bell rehearsals outdoors.
Office: Offices closed, limited activity for counters and staff	Office: Offices closed, limited activity, drop-off or pick-up by appointment	Office: limited activity and hours. Appointments required for visits, drop-off, pick-up.
Committees, Teams, Groups: Virtual	Committees, Teams, Groups: Virtual, limited outdoor in-person gatherings	Committees, Teams, Groups: virtual, outdoor meetings, limited indoor activity tied to service projects. No serving of food or beverages at indoor events or activities.
CYF Ministries: Virtual	CYF Ministries: Virtual gatherings, outdoor in-person gatherings of 25 or less (masks, distancing)	CYF Ministries: virtual, outdoor in-person gatherings of 15 or less (masks and physical distancing); limited indoor activity. No serving of food or beverages at indoor events or activities.
Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms: Virtual, outdoor or graveside with limited numbers	Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms: Virtual, outdoor services with 25 or less; indoor services of 20 or less with masks and physical distancing	Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms: Virtual, outdoor services of up to 250, indoor services of up to 40 with masks and physical distancing.
Community Groups: building closed	Community Groups: building closed	Community Groups: Limited to groups of 10 or less with masks, and physical distancing. Musical groups comprised of six or less with physical distancing and precautions.
Outreach Groups: building closed	Outreach Groups: groups of 10 or less with masks, physical distancing, limited movement and interaction	Outreach Groups: groups of 15 or less with masks, physical distancing, minimized interaction
Pastoral Care: Virtual, Emergency/End of life visits	Pastoral care: Virtual, outdoor, emergency/end of life visits	Pastoral care: Virtual, outdoor, indoor by appointment (social distancing, masks); compassion visits in nursing homes/hospitals/hospice/senior living dependent on facilities and protocols.
Befriender Ministry: Virtual and phone	Befriender Ministry: Virtual and phone	Befriender Ministry: Virtual, phone, outdoor visits

Our goal is to migrate to Phase 4, Stage 1, by May 23, 2021.

Phase 4	Phase 5
<p>Worship*: <i>Stage 1:</i> Virtual; Outdoor; Indoor services of up to 120 people with masks and social distancing, limited singing and instruments (generally no congregational singing). <i>Stage 2:</i> Virtual; Outdoor; following updated protocols with potential for greater singing, instruments. <i>*The indoor worship services are dependent on pastoral staff and musicians being vaccinated</i></p>	<p>Worship: Outdoor, Indoor (no requirements on masks and distancing)</p>
<p>Music: Virtual, outdoor with masks, small group singing for pre-recorded worship; soloists or small group singing (six or less) for in-person worship; bell rehearsals and playing outdoor and indoor.</p>	<p>Music: No restrictions.</p>
<p>Office: moderate activity. Appointments recommended.</p>	<p>Office: Open with normal business hours and accessible to congregation</p>
<p>Committees, Teams, Groups: virtual, outdoor, indoor in groups of 15 or less with physical distancing and masks. No serving of food or beverages at indoor events or activities.</p>	<p>Committees, Teams, Groups: regular meetings</p>
<p>CYF Ministries*: <i>Stage 1:</i> virtual, outdoor of 50 people or less; indoor groups of 15 or less physical distancing and masks <i>Stage 2:</i> virtual, outdoor unlimited, indoor groups of 25 or less following protocols <i>*These are dependent on staff members having been vaccinated</i></p>	<p>CYF Ministries: regular activities (no special requirements)</p>
<p>Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms*: <i>Stage 1:</i> Virtual, outdoor, indoor services of up to 120 with physical distancing and masks. Food and beverages limited. <i>Stage 2:</i> Virtual, outdoor, indoor (with updated protocols in place) <i>*The indoor services are dependent on pastoral staff and musicians being vaccinated</i></p>	<p>Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms: regular activities and support</p>
<p>Community Groups: outdoor and indoor gatherings following updated protocols. Limited singing and music.</p>	<p>Community Groups: open (no restrictions)</p>
<p>Outreach Groups: <i>Stage 1:</i> outdoor groups of 50 or less; indoor groups of 15 or less indoors (with masks and distancing) <i>Stage 2:</i> outdoor groups unlimited; indoor groups of 25 or less</p>	<p>Outreach Groups: open, no restrictions</p>
<p>Pastoral care: Virtual, outdoor, indoor (with physical distancing and masks), hospital/senior living/hospice dependent on facilities and vaccinations</p>	<p>Pastoral care: no restrictions</p>
<p>Befriender ministry: virtual, phone, outdoor, indoor with masks, if all parties have been vaccinated</p>	<p>Befriender ministry: no restrictions</p>

Thursday Morning Bible

Spring 2021

This spring we continue delving into the lectionary texts for the coming Sunday—allowing a fuller conversation of what people will be hearing and reflecting on in worship. The texts for the upcoming Bible studies are listed below. Note: we will be using Zoom for online meeting this month—the Zoom link can be found in the Friday Flyer. The study group meets at **9:30 a.m. on Thursday mornings**.

April 8

Acts 4:32-35 *The believers' common life*
 Psalm 133 *How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)*
 1 John 1:1--2:2 *Walking in the light*
 John 20:19-31 *Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ*

April 15

Acts 3:12-19 *Health and forgiveness through the risen Jesus*
 Psalm 4 *The LORD does wonders for the faithful. (Ps. 4:3)*
 1 John 3:1-7 *The revealing of the children of God*
 Luke 24:36b-48 *Eating with the risen Christ*

April 22

Acts 4:5-12 *Healing and hope in the name of Jesus*
 Psalm 23 *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*
 1 John 3:16-24 *Love in truth and action*
 John 10:11-18 *Christ the shepherd*

April 29

Acts 8:26-40 *Philip teaches and baptizes an Ethiopian eunuch*
 Psalm 22:25-31 *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)*
 1 John 4:7-21 *God's love perfected in love for one another*
 John 15:1-8 *Christ the vine*

Faith in Daily Life

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 spring (***the first and third Wednesdays of the month at noon***). Feel free to join either group for conversation. The hope is to be able to begin gathering in person later this spring, if possible. ***Find the Faith in Daily Life Zoom link in your weekly Friday Flyer.***

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

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

Sharing Your Stimulus

From Pastor Ali Ferin

Many households have already received or will be receiving another round of stimulus payments. We know that for many, this payment is a lifeline to make ends meet during this time of economic uncertainty. For others, this stimulus has presented an opportunity to be generous with the greater community. For those of you looking to donate your stimulus, below are some places of need that would greatly benefit from your generosity!

- Coalition Accompany Neighbors (CAN)** This is a collaborative made up of members from local congregations who are accompanying undocumented neighbors by providing tutoring to children, transportation to appointments, access to legal services, etc. Funds for this coalition would support families in need who do not qualify for a stimulus payment. *To support this ministry, you can provide a gift to St. Michael's with a memo/note of "CAN".*
- Pastors' Discretionary Fund** This fund is used to support congregation and community members in times of crisis for needs such as medical bills, rent, food, transportation costs, etc. *To support this ministry, you can provide a gift to St. Michael's with a memo/note of "Pastors' Discretionary".*
- Guatemala Partnership** Our partner church in Guatemala has been impacted by the pandemic, as well as by a devastating hurricane and other natural disasters. We also continue to support the education of children and in particular, young village girls who would otherwise begin child rearing at a young age. God's love knows no borders! To support this ministry, you can provide a gift to St. Michael's with a memo/note of *Guatemala Partnership* .

2021 Budget Overview

	February Actual	February Budget	Annual Actual	Year to Date Budget	Annual Budget
Income	\$83,445.44	\$67,726.12	\$199,633.18	\$135,452.24	\$812,713.44*
Expenses	\$58,621.37	\$67,726.12	\$116,238.11	\$135,452.24	\$812,713.44
Net Balance	\$24,824.07	\$0.00	\$83,395.07	\$0.00	\$0.00

*At the Annual Meeting on January 24, 2021, the congregation approved use of the reserve funds of \$46,409.00, if needed, to meet the budget at the end of the year. This is included in the Annual Approved budget of \$812,713.44.

The Congregation, Council, and Finance Committee felt comfortable with this due to the consistent giving of the congregation, the stewardship of expenses by staff and committees, and being able to transfer funds into the reserve fund at the end of 2020.

Want to go green?

Did you know that currently about 300 *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

All of our online ministries are password protected. Passwords are shared through the CYF Newsletter or the Friday Flyer.

Sundays in April			
Sunday	10 a.m. online	11 a.m. online	1-3 p.m. in-person
April 4	Easter Sunday—no gatherings		
April 11	Children & Company	Screen Break	Middle School Youth
April 18	Middle School Youth	High School Youth	Children & Company
April 25	Screen Break	Screen Break	High School Youth

Faith at Home Ministries—the transition to in-person activities!

In April, (based on SMART Team protocols) we plan to shift our Sunday ministries to allow for some in-person ministry to take place. We are excited about the possibility of meeting together at St. Michael's! As these changes are dependent on a number of contingencies, please visit stmichaelselca.com/cyf regularly to view plans and to sign up for activities. (Also, see the chart on pages 8-9 of this *Messenger* outlining the SMART Team's plans for moving forward.)

In general we'll still be having events, either in-person or online on a consistent basis for:

Children and Company

Kindergarten through 5th grade

Middle School Youth Group

Middle Schoolers 6th-8th graders

High School Youth Group

9th-12th graders

See the chart above for scheduled events for these groups.

About our plans for summer

Summer plans for children, youth, and family ministries are coming underway! We hope to have more information available online before Easter Sunday and available by mail or e-mail from Jon Bates by request.

For more information—



Visit: stmichaelselca.com/cyf or

E-mail Jon Bates at youth@stmichaelselca.com

IN-PERSON MINISTRIES

High School Service Project at St. Michael's

Saturday, April 3 - 10:30am-12:00pm

High School students are invited to stay after the Passion Walk to spend time at the church with some tasks, including removing the parking lot stakes, enjoying a sugary treat, and cleaning some windows. We'll also share more information about what the summer looks like for ministry! A majority of our tasks will be done outside but some may need to be done indoors. Please let Jon know if you're able to help out and your preference of being indoors or outdoors.

Sunday, April 4 - Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, watch for the following activities to enjoy outside at the church with your family!

- Marshmallow Puffs (handed out and created by vaccinated church members) to enjoy at home.
- Photo booth (available before and after worship)

A letter from Children, Youth, and Families Director Jon Bates

St. Michael's Church Community,

I need to break some news. In March I shared my resignation as the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

I did this because it is my goal to return to school full-time this upcoming fall to begin a nursing program. I just know that I will not be able to commit to the demands of nursing school and my role at St. Michael's. Trust me, I strongly considered this! I love this church community.

To ensure that there is a smooth transition for whoever will be filling my position next, the job opening for my replacement will be posted within the coming weeks and we hope to begin interviews this spring. I'll continue being diligent with the pastors and the Children, Youth, and Family Committee during this season of transition.

As excited as I am for this new direction, my heart aches knowing the impact of this decision has on this church community, especially during a pandemic. I will say, you're still stuck with me for a while as my last day will not be until Friday, August 26. We still have many days and adventures in front of us, especially during the summer!

Being a part of St. Michael's has been a gift. Although we haven't been able to have many opportunities to be in person together the past couple of months, it's been a joy making memories. I'm looking forward to making more!

Many many thanks,



About Confirmation registration

Registration is now open for Spring Confirmation intensive classes for 7th-9th graders. There are two options students can choose from: in-person outdoor sessions starting in May, *or* online classes starting in April. More information and registration is available at: <https://www.stmichaelselca.com/confirmation-20202021.html>

Youth Room update

In last month's *Messenger* it was mentioned that the Youth Room would be undergoing a remodeling project. At this time, that project has been paused for the time-being. We anticipate next steps later this year. Please connect with Pastor Brad or Jon Bates for more

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 below and learn how you can get involved!

Social Ministry Calendar –April/May

Panera Bread	Daily
Food Mobile Distribution	April 13
Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission	April 11
Loaves and Fishes	May 17

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 Joe Nosek or Pastor Ali to learn more.

BeFrienders

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.



Want to help with our Loaves and Fishes ministry?

Six times each year, a crew from St. Michael's prepares a hot, hearty meal for the guests at the Loaves and Fishes site at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in South Minneapolis. During COVID, Loaves and fishes has employed procedures to keep both workers and guests safe.

Volunteers are needed to cook the meal, prepare the take-out meal boxes for guests, and clean up. We will be serving in May. To learn more check out the Loaves and Fishes sign up at SignUp Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/?go=c.SignUpSearch&eid=08C6CED8F4C9FB65&cs=09CBBAD98FB88B6D7B0B640E5BB49BCB>

Panera Bread Rescue

Are you looking for a way to give back? **Volunteers are needed** to pick up leftover baked goods from the Rosedale Panera Bread location at the end of the night and deliver the items to church. The bread is later re-packaged and donated to the Keystone Food Shelf and other local food outreach programs. Learn more by visiting www.stmichaelselca.com/local. Click on "Volunteer Opportunities" to find the Panera Bread sign-up opportunities.

Men's Bible & Brew

Our next St. Michael's Men's Bible & Brew will be on Tuesday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Stay tuned for upcoming e-mails and information in the *Friday Flyer*.

We will be deciding whether we gather online or around fire pits at the church (weather permitting.)

Our theme will be: ***What does resurrection look like?***



Desserters II Book Discussion Group

For this year, the Desserters II, the St. Michael's book discussion group members, have deserted the usual meeting place at church and gather together via Zoom.

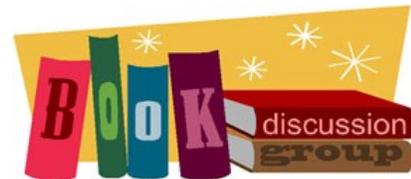
Our next meeting:

Tuesday, April 27 at 7 p.m.

Title: *Giver of the Stars* by Jojo Moyes

Coming up:

Tuesday, May 18: *The Fire is Upon Us* by Nicholas Buccola



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

St. Michael's Staff Directory

St. Michael's Lutheran

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