St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Messenger

August 2026

What's Inside?

Worship & Education
Page 2 - 3
- Summer Worship Schedule
- Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Monday worship at 7:00 p.m. with ASL

Life of the Congregation
Page 4 - 5
- Congregation Life Updates
- Pastor Ali's July Letter
- Deacon Update

Children, Youth & Family
Page 7 - 12
- 7th-9th Grade Confirmation Updates
- Friday Flock, August 14
- Important Upcoming Dates
- CYF Registration Open
- Kindergarten Welcome
- Service-Learning trip *photos*

A Church at Work
Page 20 - 22
- Property Committee Updates
- Church Council & Executive Committee Notes
- Budget Overview & Financial Update

Music News
Page 13
- Join the summer Come Y'all Choir!
- Moonlight Melodies. August 9, 5pm

Social Ministry
Page 14 - 17
- Social Ministry Calendar
  - Rezek Meal, Sandwich Making, Keystone Food Mobile, Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Panera Bread Rescue
  - Starting in September: Every Meal, Brimhall Reading Program, Loaves & Fishes
- School Supply Drive
- Minnesota Truth Council
- Roseville Clothing Swap
- Guatemala Partnership Updates

Education & Fellowship
Page 18 - 20
- Twins Lutheran Night, August 11
- Learn Mah Jongg.
- Starting in September
  - Wednesday Evening Faith Discussions
  - Thursday Morning Bible Study
  - Desserters II Book Club
  - Esther Circle
  - Faith in Daily Life

Worship & Education Schedule

Summer Schedule

Sunday Mornings

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Monday Evening Schedule

Summer Evening Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

August Worship Schedule

Sunday, August 2

- 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- Live Streamed & Recorded

Monday, August 3

- 7:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Room
- Summer Evening Worship
- ASL Interpretation

Sunday, August 9

- 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- Live Streamed & Recorded

Monday, August 10

- 7:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Room
- Summer Evening Worship
- ASL Interpretation

Summer Office Hours

Need to swing by the church office? Give us a call first or schedule a visit with a staff person – summer staff schedules are varied due to youth trips, camp, etc. and we don't want to miss you! Thank you!

Sunday, August 16

- 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- Live Streamed & Recorded

Monday, August 17

- 7:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Room
- Summer Evening Worship
- ASL Interpretation

Sunday, August 23

- 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- Live Streamed & Recorded

Monday, August 24

- 7:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Room
- Summer Evening Worship
- ASL Interpretation

Sunday, August 30

Come Y'all Choir

- 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- Live Streamed & Recorded

Monday, August 31

Come Y'all Choir

- 7:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Room
- Summer Evening Worship
- ASL Interpretation

Religion in Life

St. Michael's Sunday Adult Education Forum

Religion In Life is on break for the summer. We will be returning with guest speakers and presenters in September.

Over the next month the planning team will be meeting and lining up speakers for the coming year.

Religion in Life provides a great opportunity to engage in learning about and discussing a variety of topics—from Bible and theology, to Community Life and Justice Issues, to Health, Wellness, Spirituality, and Art. If you know of topics you would like to see addressed of guest speakers you would recommend, please reach out to Kelly Barkve or Roland Hayes as co-chairs of the team or Pastor Brad.

A reminder that many Religion in Life sessions from this past year were live-streamed and recorded so that they are available to a broader audience and can be viewed at other times. Sessions can be found on our website (under Education/Online Religion in Life) https://www.stmichaelselca.com/ or Scan the QR Code to go to the St. Michael's Channel.

ASL in Worship

ASL will be provided the Monday evenings over the summer. Please contact the church office for an updated schedule of interpreters.

Live-Streamed Services

Each Sunday, our service will be live-streamed. Subscribe to the St. Michael's YouTube Channel to watch worship live on Sunday mornings if you are not able to come in person.

Watch your Friday Flyer for a copy of the Bulletin to download and follow along, as well as the link to the live service. Streamed services will also be recorded and posted on Sunday evening on our website https://www.stmichaelselca.com/ for viewing at your convenience Scan the QR Code to go to the St. Michael's Channel.

Worship Volunteers Always Welcome!

Volunteers are needed to serve as ushers, lectors, communion deacons, and fellowship hosts. These are great opportunities for folks of all ages - families are encouraged to sign up together! We are also looking for Altar Prep / Cleanup volunteers. Training will be provided and schedules are flexible.

Scan the QR Code or head to www.stmichaelselca.com and click "Volunteer" to access signups.

Flower Donations

Fresh flowers at the altar each week are a beautiful connection to God's creation in worship. We welcome you to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one with a dedication that will be printed in the bulletin. Use the Flower Signup on the bulletin board, call the church office, or sign up online or through the church website www.stmichaelselca.com and click "Volunteer" to access signup .

Life of the Congregation

Save the Date – New Member Gathering, September 20

Are you new to the St. Michael's community? Have you recently joined the church or are interested I becoming a member? Do not miss the next new member gathering on Sunday, September 20 from 3-5pm held at the home of Jill Griffin and Dennis Skvosted. We will gather on their patio for refreshments and conversation! RSVP to Pastor Ali (ali@stmichaelselca.com) Contact Pastor Ali or the church office for Griffin/Skvosted address.

New members will then be received in worship on September 27th

With Sympathy

On June 21, beloved St. Michael's member, Shirley Soderstrom, passed away. Her memorial service will be held at St. Michael's on August 1. We continue to hold her husband, Ric, and their family and friends in prayer as they grieve.

With Joy

On July 12, Liv Wells, child of Sam Wells and Rachel Camann, was baptized at St. Michael's. Please continue to pray for Liv as she grows in faith!

On August 8, Bailey Erickson and Jonah Macejkovic will be married at St. Michael's. Please pray for Jonah and Bailey as they begin their marriage!

Thank you volunteers!

Volunteers have been busy this summer! Thank you to our faithful ushers, fellowship hosts, communion servers, lectors, and altar prep volunteers who make worship possible each Sunday! We are grateful for you!

Thank you to Roland Hayes, Dennis Skovsted, Ron Kuhn, Brad Koland, and Ron LaFond for your work on disassembly, moving, and reassembly of all the desks in the offices for the new carpet installation. The fresh clean look in the office is appreciated!

The property team has been hard at work, too! A special thank you to those who help care for the property and landscape in these hot summer months, especially Burle Gengennach and Roland Hayes for their many hours of work and generous caretaking of our church home!

Pastor's Letter

Savor the Summer

Over the last several weeks in worship we have been dwelling in the parables of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew. Most of these parables are deeply steeped in agrarian references to seeds, sowing, wheat and weeds, harvesting, and God at work in creation.

These images of fields and gardens feel fitting as we round out the month of July and move into August here in Minnesota. Many farmers are cutting their second crop of hay; the corn is over shoulder height and tasseling out; veggies from the garden are being picked; we are enjoying flowers and produce at roadside stands and farmers markets; and we are steadily moving toward the harvest. The seeds, the produce, and the very earth feel like they are a part of who we are as we savor the rains and fruits of the summer.

Seamus Heaney has a poem titled "Blackberry-picking" in which he shares the late-August thrill of the taste of the first black-berry…and those that would ripen soon after…and then being sent with cans and pails to fill with all the berries that would follow suit in turning dark. They would fill the tubs with blackberries and his hope each year is they would keep, but, at some point, with ferment or mold the moment would come to an end.

Like Heaney, I want to bask in the moments of August—the taste of fresh vegetables from the gardens and fields, the moments at the lake with the waves lapping at the shore, the evening on the back porch with a cold Arne Palmer, or just idle conversation in lawn chairs with family or friends. These are the moments to catch our breaths, to sink into a deep sense of just really being present.

That's not to say that all our summer days are perfect. This year we are all too well aware of the spike in the number of days with high temperatures, the smoke clouds billowing in, the worries about some who are traveling, and for some the exhaustion that comes from entertaining children or rushing them from one camp to another, or the weariness of being the primary care-giver for a family member or friend. Yet, there is something about summer that allows us to just be…in a different way.

These times seem to slip away too quickly in anticipation of September—whether with the rush to get ready for school, packing up for college, a more regimented work schedule, more places to volunteer, or simply the sun going down a bit sooner each day.

So, I invite you, at your leisure, to read through this newsletter. Perhaps with a glass of ice-cold lemonade, or by the side of your favorite beach or pool, or as you savor fresh fruits from the field. Indeed, there is information (and quite a bit as we celebrate the ministry of the summer and we turn our eyes to September and the new program year!), but there is nothing that won't keep for a few days. So...savor!

Blessings for rest, renewal, and dwelling deeply in creation as we move through this month.

Peace, Pastor Brad

Deacon Update

You may recall that our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Natalie Romero, was completing coursework at Luther Seminary. We are proud to share that Natalie graduated in May with a Master of Arts in Lutheran Ministries! Natalie is now in the final months of internship at St. Michael's to complete her candidacy requirements to become an ordained deacon in the ELCA.

The Personnel and Administration Committee have been working with Natalie and the pastors as we imagine bringing a deacon on staff. They believe that Natalie's expanded role will bring robust ministry possibilities to the Children, Youth, and Family Ministries program, increase the bandwidth of the pastors to expand into other areas of

ministry, and increase our outreach in the community. They have also worked with the finance committee to accommodate the change in staff compensation in budget.

At the August meeting, our church council will discuss a motion to create a call committee to officially call Natalie to serve as a deacon at St. Michael's. The call committee will only interview Natalie for the deacon position. Pending an affirmative vote by the congregation, Natalie will be ordained at St. Michael's and begin her new role later this fall.

As we anticipate the future of what it means to have a deacon at St. Michael's, there are some things to look forward to:

- Natalie will be preaching and leading worship
- Natalie will be taking primary responsibility for the confirmation program
- Natalie will supervise the Director of Children and Youth Music position (interviews to fill the role are currently underway)

This is an exciting time for Natalie, the pastoral staff, and for our congregation! We are delighted to accompany Natalie and to imagine the work that she will be carrying out at St. Michael's in the future. Stay tuned for more updates in coming months.

What's a Deacon?

Written by Carol Schickel, ELCA Deacon and a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in Chicago, IL *adapted formatting for the Messenger*

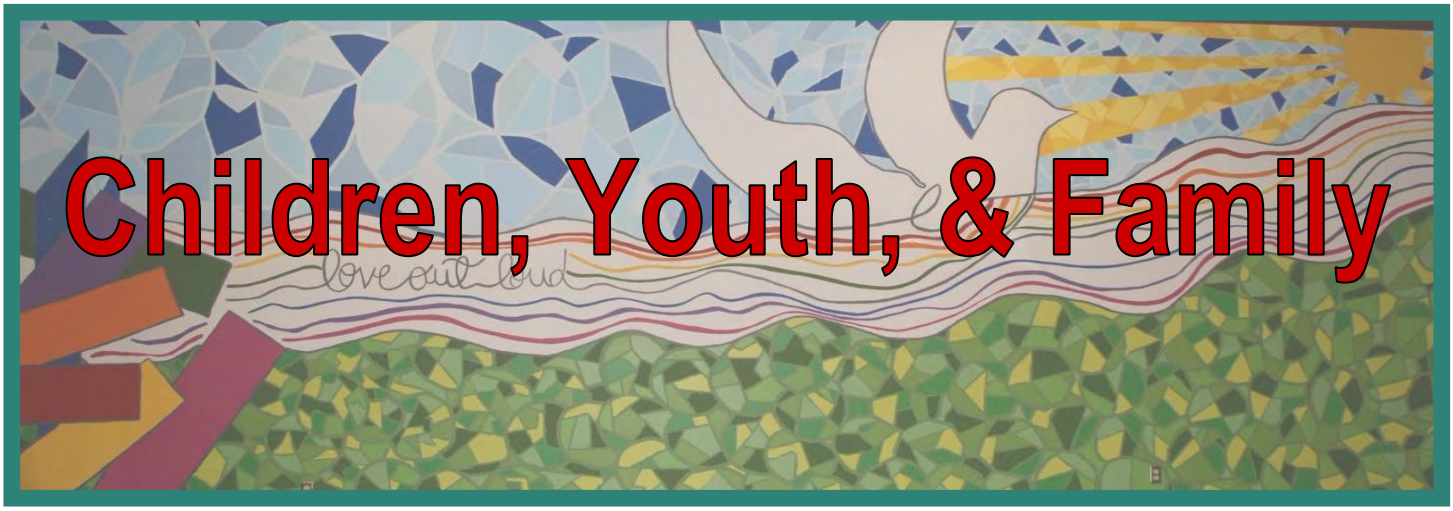
God calls human beings to participate in a divine mission in the world. We each discover or are called to our own way of caring for the earth and its inhabitants. People of God are aware of the many needs of the world and may ask from time to time: "Is this how God is calling me to respond, to act, to speak or to serve?

The church has created an order for affirming particular calls to serve in the interest of that divine mission. When the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was formed in 1988 it established three rosters: pastors, deaconesses, and associates in ministry. In 1993 a roster of diaconal ministers was added, and the first were consecrated in 1995. These rostered leaders are called through the ELCA to serve congregations as well as other officially called ministries.

Some who serve on the of the rosters of the ELCA are chaplains, therapists, musicians and cantors, seminary faculty and administrators, social workers and churchwide and synod leaders. At the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly changes were made to the three rosters of lay leaders. As of January 1, 2017, those who have served on the lay rosters as associates in ministry, diaconal ministers and deaconesses are now part of one unified roster of 'Ministers of Word and Service,' and are called deacons. The other roster of the ELCA continues to be known as "Ministers of Word and Sacrament,' called pastors.

The ministry of deacons (also called ministers of Word and Service) is recognized by churches throughout history and around the world. The earliest deacon of the Bible was Stephen. The ELCA continues to seek to honor the significance of deacons serving at the intersection of church and world, bringing a sharper focus to the ways the church responds to the needs of people. The ELCA's new roster more closely aligns with the global church, providing clarity and empowerment to those the church calls to serve.

Congregations, synods, and other places where these deacons now serve are encouraged to recognize this significant transition and affirm their ministries.



7th – 9th Grade Confirmation Updates

Summer is in full swing, but we are busy getting ready for fall and can't wait to kick off confirmation for 7th – 9th graders! You can find information on the confirmation program at www.stmichaelselca.com/confirmation.

New and returning students should register for confirmation using the 2026-2027 CYF Registration Form available at this QR code.

Please share the registration with other families who may be interested in confirmation - friends and non-members are welcome to join!

This year, Natalie Romero, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries will take primary leadership of the confirmation program. For questions or more information, contact youth@stmichaelselca.com

Confirmation Save the Dates
September 16, 7pm - parent orientation and student acolyte training (new and returning families!)
September 23, 7pm – First class!

Wednesday Night Schedule
Community Meal 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Evening Prayer 6:10 p.m. in the Courtyard Room
Confirmation 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Grown Up Youth Group
Parents of confirmation students are invited to monthly Grown Up Youth Group gatherings while the kids are in class! Meetings are held at Centro in Roseville. More information to come!

10th Grade Confirmation Updates
10th grade students who have completed the confirmation program and desire to be confirmed should plan to attend all of the following capstone experiences:

- **Sunday, September 27** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Capstone 1: My Faith Story, Vocation & Looking Forward
- **Sunday, October 4** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Capstone 2: Faith Vocation Pannel and Faith Project (Stoles)
- **Wednesday, October 21** 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Capstone 3: Finalizing Stoles, Faith Project Party & Worship Rehearsal

The Rite of Confirmation will be held in worship on Reformation Sunday, October 25th at 10:00 a.m.

Service Trip

Students who attended the 2026 Service Trip led worship on June 28 & 29 and shared how their experiences on Service Trips helps shape who they want to be in the world.

Be sure to explore NYC with them on pages 9-12 here in the Messenger.

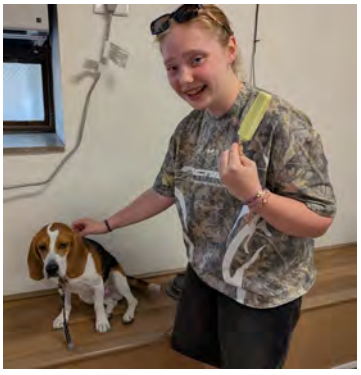
Upcoming Dates
CYF Events Coming up!
Mark your Calendars!
14 August
Friday Flock
6 pm - 8 pm
Sign up using the QR Code on the flyer!
13 September
Lunch on the Lawn
11 am - 1:30 pm
Join us for lunch, games, & Sunday School registration!
16 September
Confirmation Orientation
7 pm - 8 pm
Orientation for all 7th - 9th Graders & Parents
20 September
Youth Group & Sunday School Kick-off
First day of Sunday School from 9:10am to 9:50am!
More info to come about Youth Group!

KINDERGARTEN HERE WE COME!
Is your child entering kindergarten this September?
Our CYF Committee would love to celebrate them and their families--its a big milestone!
Please email Natalie Romero at Youth@stmichaelselca.com by August 15th.

Friday Flock
August 14th
6pm-8pm
SCAN ME
Open to all youth--
4 year olds to completed 5th grade
Sign up by clicking {HERE}
or use the QR Code
Dinner provided! Walking Tacos!
Bring a swimsuit & dry clothes!

2026-2027
CYF REGISTRATION
Gather• Nurture• Send
St. Michael's Children, Youth & Family Ministry is a journey of self-discovery, deepening faith, and building authentic relationships with peers and trusted adults in the congregation.
Confirmation
Sunday School
Nursery
REGISTER NOW
Everyone Welcome!
651-631-1510
www.stmichaelselca.com

12 youth and 3 adult leaders traveled to New York City for a service-learning trip. We are grateful for this community that continues to invest in our students and their faith journey.

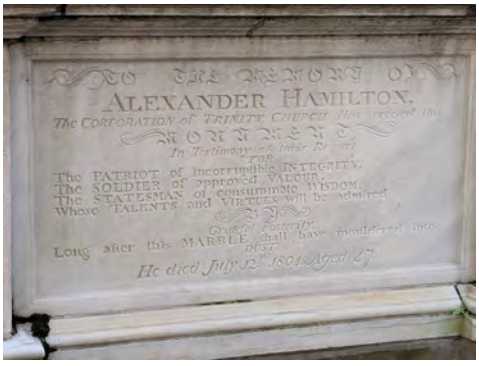


WINNER!
BEST
MUSICAL
2019 TONY AWARD
HADESTOWN
CANNABIS
CANNABIS

Wall ST

RESTROOMS

Natalie explaining the offsides rule at the Hard Rock Cafe.


ALEXANDER HAMILTON.
The CORPORATION of TRINITY CHURCH
MONUMENT
The PATRIOT of incorruptible INTEGRITY,
The SOLDIER of approved VALOUR,
The STATESMAN of consummate WISDOM,
Whose TALENTS and VIRTUES will be admired
Long after this MARBLE shall have mouldered into
He died July 12th 1804 Aged 47

Music News

Come Y'all Choir

All are welcome to our summer pop-up choir! Bring your neighbors and friends, youth...all are welcome .
More information: Karen Wilkerson: kkw.sings@gmail.com or 651 592-6760

Sunday Aug. 30 Practice at 9:00am for the 10:00am service
Monday Aug. 31 Practice at 6:00pm for the 7:00pm service

A Celebration of Music

Social Ministry

Social Ministry Calendar

Serving at St. Michael's in the coming month:

August 3 Rezek House Meal

St. Michael's volunteers and PEO (a women's service sorority) provide meals for the youth and young adults living at Lutheran Social Services' Rezek House (a home that supports transitional housing for homeless or housing-insecure young adults). Often teams of two individuals/households prepare a meal for 8-14 individuals and deliver the meal to Rezek House for their Monday evening gathering. ***(Note this meal will be at the new location on University of Avenue!)***

August 9 Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission

Gather between 9:10-9:40 a.m. in the Serving Area & Kitchen to assemble sandwiches.

People of all ages are invited to gather prior to worship to make sandwiches for Union Gospel Mission. This a great way to serve and support a local organization!

August 11 Keystone Mobile Food Truck Distribution

2:00-4:00 p.m. in Circle Drive (west side of the church)

Partnering with Keystone Food Shelf, St. Michael's volunteers assist in welcoming and hosting individuals and households utilizing the Keystone Mobile Food truck. With the food truck, people are able to "shop" and select the foods that work best for their needs. St. Michael's provides at least three volunteers to assist with hosting and shopping with community members.

August 12&26 Quilting and Bandage Rolling

9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall. Volunteers from the congregation meet to piece and assemble quilts to go to veterans, children, and the seniors at St. Michael's. Another team also creates bandage rolls from old sheets that can be sent with medical supplies to places in need of medical support around the world.

Daily - Panera Bread Ministry

Evening pick-up at Rosedale Panera; Morning bagging at St. Michael's Kitchen

Volunteers "rescue" the bread and baked goods at the end of the day from Panera and bring them to church, so that they can be bagged and taken to area organizations where they will be distributed to individuals and families.

Getting Ready for the New School/Program Year!

Fridays - Every Meal

As part of this outreach St. Michael's Volunteers distribute food at Parkview Center School on Fridays during the school year, in order that children and youth have meals they can prepare at home over the weekend. The new calendar and sign-up will be posted on SignUp Genius at the beginning of this month as we prepare for the upcoming school year. Feel free to check out the information online or connect with Pastor Brad.

Brimhall Reading Program

Volunteers assist as reading partners for either a Kindergarten, first or second-grader for 15 minutes or assist with reading and/or math with a 3rd-6th grader for 20 minutes on Wednesdays. You are asked to commit to 22 of the 27 academic weeks. This program will be starting up with the new school year, but if you are interested in getting involved please reach out to Mike Gregory or David Black.

Loaves & Fishes—planned restart in September!

Loaves & Fishes is working with St. Michael's to discern the best fit for us to serve this coming year. They are looking at options in both Minneapolis and St. Paul. That being said, they feel there will be a place for us to jump in starting in September. More information will be in the September *Messenger* and upcoming bulletins and Friday eblasts.

School Supply Drives!

This August St. Michael's is again doing a school supply drive for Roseville Area Schools, Northern Voices, and area families. The school drive kicks off on Sunday, August 2nd and will run through Monday, August 24th.

The collection bin will be located outside of the sanctuary. If you prefer to provide cash/check instead of supplies, feel free to place an envelope in the offering plate noting "School Supply Drive" or drop off at the church office and the Social Ministry Committee will purchase supplies on your behalf.

Additionally, Children's Home Society & LSS-Minnesota are inviting members to participate in providing school supplies for Minnesota Foster Children.

You can either bring items listed below to the church for our congregational drive, or you can use the QR code and go to Amazon and send items directly to Children's Home Society for foster children who will benefit from this support.

Thank you in advance for supporting students in our area schools and preschools!

Bring your Donation to St. Michael's

Sunday, August 2nd-Monday, August 24th

Supplies Needed:

- Backpacks
- 3-ring Binder Zipper Bag/Backpack
- Loose-leaf paper
- Folders
- Notebooks
- Pencils & Pens
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons
- Erasers & highlighters
- Glue sticks and Glue bottles
- Watercolor paints
- Scissors & rulers
- Fabric or plastic pencil pouches or cases
- Black sharpies
- Dry Erase Markers
- Sticky Notes
- Boxes of Facial Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer
- Packs of Paper Towels
- Sandwich bags (zip closing or slider bags)

MINNESOTA TRUTH COUNCIL

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR STORIES FROM OPERATION METRO SURGE AND ITS AFTERMATH.

- Minnesotans have experienced and witnessed the human cost of thousands of federal agents deployed in our communities. Our stories of what happened are important. Gathered together, our stories build a collective truth and a historical record of what happened here.
- The Minnesota Truth Council is an independent, non-partisan body that will create a historical record of survivor and witness experiences and produce a report with recommendations for legislative and policy reform.
- The Council would like stories from anyone who experienced harm, witnessed what happened, or was part of the community response. We are collecting information on both the harm people experienced as a result of the surge and the resilience that Minnesotans showed in caring for their community. Individual stories will serve as the primary source of information.
- Members of St Michael's have been trained as Story Collectors and would like to hear stories from anyone who is willing to share. Please contact them via phone or email if you have a story or to connect them to someone you know who would like to share.

Cristy Buss Murray 612-356-0137, cbussmurray@gmail.com
Chris Hughs 651-261-4283, cthchahch@comcast.net
Ron LaFond 651-775-7691, r.lafond@yahoo.com

Roseville Clothing Swap

St. Michael's will be a collection point for the second annual Clothing Swap. Look for the black bin in the Narthex for your donations.

Guatemala Partnership

Travel

Our 2026 trip to visit our partner congregation Santa Cruz de la Esperanza in Cimento is only 2 months away! Our next meeting will be on August 17, at 5:30 p.m. in Classroom 1.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the trip, be sure to contact Lisa Koland or Natalie Romero very soon!

Picnic

Join travelers and supporters from other congregations to celebrate successful trips and share information on how we can continue to grow our partnerships.

Tuesday, August 18, 6:00 p.m.
Central Park, Roseville.

Gala

Save the Date!
Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 p.m.

Study and Fellowship Opportunities

St. Mike's Young Adult Gathering

Are you between the ages of 22-35 and hoping to get to know other St. Michael's young adults? Aleksi Moran will be organizing a gathering in August to build connection and community. Let him know if you're interested! Aleksi.moran@gmail.com

Mahjong

Have you ever wanted to learn to play mahjong? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow St. Michael's members better? Please join us on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Courtyard Room for open play. All are welcome, even beginners! Learn mahjong in a welcoming space.

Contact Sue Kuhn or Jane Doyle with any questions.

Lutheran Night at the Twins, August 11

Join your friends from St. Michael's (and other Lutherans from across the state) for a great night watching the Twins take on the Baltimore Orioles. We have reserved 20 tickets for this event, but we can reserve more spots if we need to, so sign up soon! Tickets are $52 each and include all you can eat ballpark fare! You can also arrive at 5:20 p.m. at the Rally Point to join the Lutheran Mass Choir that will be sing at the game.
Questions: Contact Al Barkve.

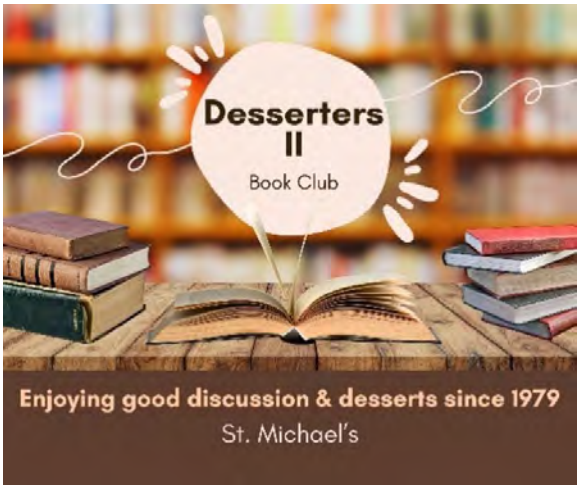
Summer Patio Series

The summer patio series small groups continues to meet on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday evening! You can access small group discussion guides at www.stmichaelselca.com/patioseries

St. Michael's at the State Fair!

Are you submitting handcrafts, fine arts, or foods to the Minnesota State Fair this year? Are you working or volunteering at the Fair? Do you have a connection to any fair exhibits, competitions, history, or food? Let Pastor Ali know! We are working to create a fun map of the fair for St. Michael's members to take with them on fair outings! Questions? Ideas? Let Pastor Ali know!

The Desserters II Book Club



The Desserters II Book Discussion group is taking the summer off. Every spring we submit titles and vote on the eight books to discuss during the next season.

Here's the list and your opportunity to get a head start on some good reading.
Everyone is invited to the discussions!

Sep. 22, 2026 *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore
Oct. 27, 2026 *Dovetails in Tall Grass* by Samantha Specks
Jan. 26, 2027 *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn
Feb. 23, 2027 *Call Me American* by Abdi Nor Iftin
Mar. 23, 2027 *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston
Apr. 27, 2027 *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood
May 25, 2027 *Miracle Children* by Katie Benner and Erica L. Green

Esther Circle begins in September!

The Esther Circle is a community of women who gather monthly for conversation, connection, and learning! Held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. September – May. Esther circle will resume on September 1. At this gathering we will reconnect after our summer apart and decide on this year's learning topic. New comers are welcome! Question? Contact Pastor Ali (ali@stmichaelselca.com)

The Wednesday Evening Discussion Group

Starts up again on September 16

An informal gathering to discuss Christian faith and practice on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Led by Dick Nysse, the topics might include the words of a hymn, segments of the liturgies we use in worship, a Bible passage, short essays, etc. How are we shaped by the words we use and how does our life experience echo or challenge our Christian faith and practice? Each session will be a stand alone so there is no need to commit to a series.

Next Men's Bible and Brew

We will be taking August off and meeting on Thursday, September 24, 7:00 p.m.

It's almost back to school time!

We are going to meet on ***Thursday, September 24th, at 7:00 p.m.*** We will gather at St. Michael's.

As part of our gathering, you are invited to bring one (or a few) of your school pictures. We will share a little bit about the highs and lows we experienced when going back to school. Then we will turn our attention to some of the aspects of the Book of Exodus. Writer and pastor Dan Erlander often referred to the Exodus as "The Wilderness School." It was there the people of Israel learned incredible lessons of faith, bumped up against challenges, and grew together as a community. As the kids head back to school this fall, how might we be invited to learn from the "Wilderness School."

Bring your favorite brews and a snack to share. Look forward to being together as we gather in this new program year.

Yoga Devotion

TIME CHANGE for summer months: Yoga will begin at 6:00 p.m.
The current session runs July 6 - August 17
Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
7 weeks, $77.

Join Yogadevotion in partnership with St. Michael's for an uplifting mat-based yoga class that blends strength-building and balance-enhancing postures with mindful movement to help you feel stronger, steadier, and more centered. Whether you're looking to improve flexibility, build confidence, or simply enjoy an hour of self-care, this class offers a welcoming space to nurture both body and spirit.

If you would like to try a free class to learn more about yoga, please contact Deb Legan for the zoom link and join us.

Follow the QR code to register and pay for the class.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

9:30 a.m. Thursday Mornings
Kicks Off the New Program Year on September 10!

Thursday morning Bible study takes place from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. The Bible study is often led by Pastor Brad (with Pastor Ali and other guest teachers jumping in throughout the year).

Throughout the 2026-2027 Program Year our Bible Study will follow the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. Additionally, we will be incorporating reflections from author Debi Thomas on several of the gospel texts. These readings are available in her book, *Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ*. (This book is available for purchase online, or from local bookstores.)

Thursday, September 10

Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph reconciles with his brothers
Psalm 103:1-13	Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy.
Romans 14:1-12	Accepting diversity in the community of faith
Matthew 18:21-35	A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith

Thursday, September 17

Jonah 3:10—4:11	God's concern for the city of Nineveh
Psalm 145:1-8	The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Philippians 1:21-30	Standing firm in the gospel
Matthew 20:1-16	The parable of the vineyard workers

Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ, Debi Thomas, pp. 156-159

Thursday, September 24

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	The fairness of God's way
Psalm 25:1-9	Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.
Philippians 2:1-13	Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross
Matthew 21:23-32	A parable of doing God's will

Thursday, October 1

Isaiah 5:1-7	The song of the vineyard
Psalm 80:7-15	Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine.
Philippians 3:4b-14	Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ
Matthew 21:33-46	The parable of the vineyard owner's son

Faith in Daily Life

Faith in Daily Life groups read a variety of books focusing on theology, scripture, current events, and topics facing the church and world today. It is an opportunity to connect with others in learning, conversation, and faith.

Often these groups meet on the 1st or 2nd Wednesday of each month over lunch. The schedule for upcoming months will be shared in the September *Messenger*, but note that the first gathering will be on Wednesday, September 9th at St. Michael's in Classroom 1.

Additionally, there have been some who have expressed an interest in a before or after work gathering. If this is something that would be of interest to you, please connect with Pastor Brad.

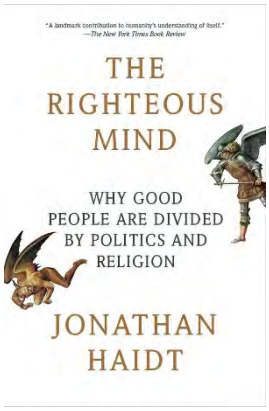
The two books that are on the docket for the first half of this year are:

The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion, Jonathan Haidt

September:	Intro & Part 1
October:	Part 2
November:	Part 3

We Mend with Gold: An Immigrant Daughter's Reckoning with American Christianity, Kristin T. Lee

December:	Introduction & Part 1
January:	Part 2 & Epilogue



A Church at Work

Property Committee Updates

Members of the Property Committee have been working to stay on top of various items around the church. They are grateful for the team members, rain garden volunteers, courtyard volunteers, and our custodian Savita who have done an incredible job with work around the church this summer.

Upcoming Items

Security Door Installation—for several years Northern Voices has wondered with St. Michael's about the possibility of incorporating security doors in the hallways that will provide greater security for their students throughout the week.

Recognizing that St. Michael's strives to keep its doors open during the week to meet the needs of neighbors and the community, we have felt that this is a worthwhile request. That being said it, also requires additional funds. Through a generous donor the funds were contributed to the church and the doors will be installed this August while Northern Voices is on break.

This will add a slightly different look to the hallways, but we are glad that we can add this additional level of security for the children and families who utilize the building throughout the week.

Solar Panel Installation—after months of waiting for next steps with Xcel Energy, it appears that solar panel installation on three of the church's roofs will begin soon. We look forward to highlighting the work as it progresses. This work, while shepherded by members of the Property Committee, is also through the generous donation of a St. Michael's household.

Raingarden Update

Mid July was the perfect time to provide the needed maintenance for our rain garden. In their third year, the flowers, sedges, and grasses are now showing their beauty, and their contribution to cleaning up the environmentally harmful water coming off our roofs.

Thank you to both Abbi Hanson and Brian Cihacek, two Master Gardeners who have assisted with both maintenance and the planting of new varieties in the rain garden.

Additionally, thanks to Burle Gengenbach for his leadership and assistance where needed to beautify our churches' landscaping.

If you are interested in helping out with rain garden maintenance, put Wednesday, August 12 from 6-7 PM on your calendar when we will gather again.

Contact Doug Schumacher if you have any questions and/or interest in helping out with this project.

Church Council Corner

The Church Council met on Tuesday, June 29 at 8:15 p.m. on Zoom.

Often the council takes a break in the middle of the summer, but with two items of business in front of it, the council met prior to the July 4th week.

Ginger called the meeting to order and Pastor Brad opened the meeting in prayer.

The items before the Council were to discuss the Rise Up Roseville Financial Sponsorship and approval of Disaster Relief funds in the wake of the earthquakes in Venezuela.

Motion regarding Rise Up Roseville:
Rise Up Roseville is going to take over the work we have been stewarding for rental assistance (Roseville Housing Stability Fund). They are currently working on gaining non-profit status 501(c)(3) and requested that we continue to steward the fiscal responsibilities during the transition until their status is finalized.

Ginger has raised the following motion:

- That the Congregation Council of St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church approve entering into a fiscal sponsorship agreement with Rise Up Roseville, a newly formed community organization that has grown from the mutual aid work undertaken during Operation Metro Surge, and which has applied for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.
- Under this agreement, St. Michael's will serve as fiscal sponsor for Rise Up Roseville's assistance fund, receiving and disbursing donated monies designated for housing and utility assistance to Roseville neighbors in need. The agreement includes a defined transition timeline by which St. Michael's fiscal sponsorship will conclude within three months of Rise Up Roseville receiving nonprofit status.
- The Congregation Council authorizes the appropriate staff and officers to execute the fiscal sponsorship agreement on behalf of St. Michael's.
- After review and minor edits, the motion passed.

Motion regarding Lutheran Disaster Assistance
Lutheran Disaster Response – proposal to provide $5000 to help with earthquake response in Venezuela. Bill Lindquist moved to release the proposed $5000 for disaster relief in Venezuela and Jennifer Mehmel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next council meeting will be in Person – Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 7:00 pm. (note the change to Wednesday, as that Tuesday evening is Lutheran Night at the Twins with several council members attending!)

Executive Committee

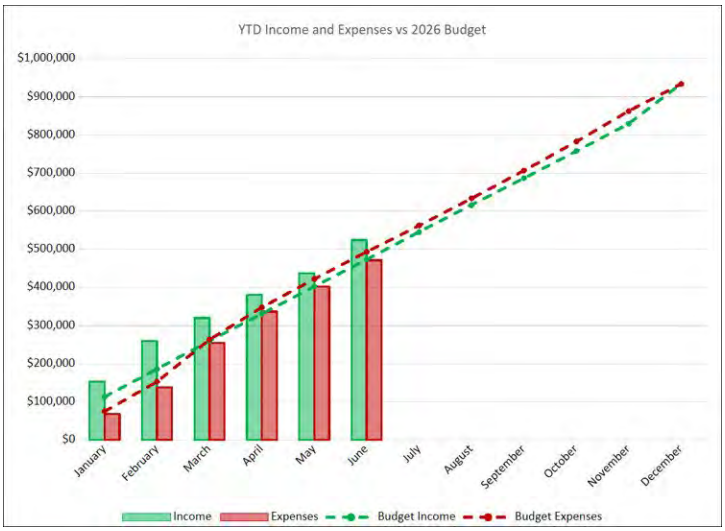
The executive committee met on July 14.

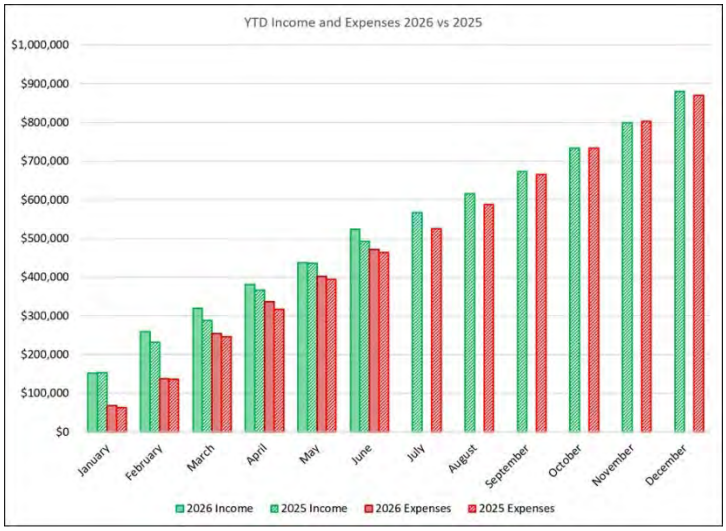
At this meeting they discussed updates from the property committee and the work group managing the church constitution. They will be recommending edits to the constitution at the next annual meeting for congregational approval. The executive committee also discussed capital campaign expenses to include property upgrades (HVAC improvements to the Courtyard Room) and debt management (payment to mortgage and replenishment of reserves)

2026 Budget Overview and Financial Update

	June Budget	June Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Annual Budget
Income	**$71,077**	**$87,297**	**524,225**	**$933,585**
Expenses	$71,492	$69,629	471,529	$933,585
Balance	$-415	$17,668	52,695	$0

June giving rebounded strongly compared to May, putting us in a very strong position with income year-to-date exceeding expenses, exceeding budget expectations, and exceeding 2025 results at this point in the year by over 6% which bodes well for being able to end the year with a balanced budget.





Online Giving & Mobile Giving

Did you know that you can pay for an event or set up a recurring automatic gift to support the work of St. Michael's? Authorization forms are available from the church office or follow this link: https://www.stmichaelselca.com/givenow.html

Vanco also has a mobile App as another method to set up a payment or a recurring automatic gift to support the work of St. Michael's. Download the Vanco Mobile App from the App Store and search for "St. Michael's Lutheran Church".

The above QR code takes you to our Donate Now page on our website.

St. Michael's is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

St. Michael's Lutheran Church lives out God's grace and love for all people. Faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we welcome those who have been part of church communities, those who have no previous church experience, and those who have felt excluded by the Church because of their race or ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental capabilities, financial resources, or family circumstances. In this witness, we seek reconciliation, healing, and wholeness. As a diverse people we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live and work together for God's promised day of justice, peace, and mercy.

Low-Scent Environment

St. Michael's Lutheran Church strives to maintain a scent-free/minimal-scent environment for the comfort of staff, congregation members, and visitors who have environmental sensitivities. Knowing that scents can trigger headaches, respiratory difficulties, dizziness, and nausea in sensitive individuals, it is the church's goal to be a place of welcome for all. Please refrain from using scented candles, room sprays, and scent packs or melts in the building. Additionally, scented body sprays, lotions, or perfume can be overwhelming for some individuals and can deter them from participating in events. Please consider refraining from or limiting the use of scented personal products.

*We recognize that certain cleaning products, items used in worship services (particularly some flowers), and hygiene products have fragrances/scents. The congregation will work to limit the use of such scented items.

Land acknowledgement

The ELCA has published "A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People," in which the church confesses its sins toward Indigenous peoples and lists the commitments it will begin working toward as it responds to its original "Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery" from 2016.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homeland of the Dakota people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Not getting your *Friday Flyer*?

Is our weekly e-newsletter, the *Friday Flyer,* not showing up in your primary inbox? First check your other inbox folders called *Promotions* or *Spam*. Then contact Lisa Koland and we will reconnect you!

Making the *Messenger Green*

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

Got something for the September *Messenger*?

The *Messenger* submission deadline is Friday, **August 14, 2026**

St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1660 County Road B West
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

St. Michael's Staff Directory

St. Michael's Lutheran
www.stmichaelselca.com , 651-631-1510

Ali Ferin, Co-Pastor
ali@stmichaelselca.com

Brad Froslee, Co-Pastor
brad@stmichaelselca.com

Lisa Koland, Church Administrator
office@stmichaelselca.com

Natalie Romero, Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries
youth@st]ichaelselca.com

Max Gouette, Communications Associate
Communication@stmichaelselca.com

Thomas Bartsch, Organist

Jill Schendel, Pianist

Karen Wilkerson, St. Michael's Singer's Choir Director

Charles Preis, Chapel Ringer's Bell Choir Director

Savita Oberdorfer & Dan Lange
Custodians

Torin Froslee & Abby Nelson
Weekend Custodians

Peggy Mehen, Administrative Assistant

Gabby Bell, Ian Hitchman
Nursery Care Attendants

Please reach out to the church office for contact information on members listed in an article.