St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Messenger

July 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

Music News

Page 10

- Join the summer Come Y'all Choir!

Social Ministry

Page 10 - 11

- Social Ministry Calendar
  - Rezek Meal, Sandwich Making, Keystone Food Mobile, Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Panera Bread Rescue
  - Now on summer break: Every Meal, Brimhall Reading Program
  - On hiatus: Loaves & Fishes
- Guatemala Travel Meetings

Children, Youth & Family

Page 6 - 9

- Update from Natalie
- Welcome new Nursery Staff
- Congratulations, class of 2026
- Service-Learning trip *Thank You*
- Friday Flock & Camp summer dates

Education & Fellowship

Page 11 - 12

- Twins Lutheran Night, August 11
- St. Michael's at the State Fair
- Summer Patio Series
- Yoga Devotion moves to 6:00 p.m.
- Now on summer break:
  - Wednesday Evening Faith Discussions, Thursday Morning Bible Study, Desserters II Book Club, Esther Circle, Faith in Daily Life

A Church at Work

Page 13 - 14

- Budget Overview & Financial Update
- Church Council Notes

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.

July Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 5

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

Monday, July 6

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

Sunday, July 12

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

Monday, July 13

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

Sunday, July 19

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

Monday, July 20

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

Sunday, July 26

Come Y'all Choir

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

Monday, July 27

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 course of the next two months the planning team will be meeting and lining up speakers for the coming year. The meeting for this team will take place in early July—see upcoming bulletins and Friday eblasts for the exact date.

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 Are Needed!

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

Staffing Update

After twenty years of ministry at St. Michael's, Cory Bock, the Director of Children's Music, has concluded his time on staff. We are thankful for his service and commitment to the music ministry of St. Michael's! Join us in praying for Cory as he enters this next season of his life - we wish him well in his future endeavors. If you wish to share a note of appreciation for Cory's ministry, you can drop off cards for him at the church office now through July 31. We will begin a search for a new Director of Children's Music this summer.

With Joy

On June 14, Ava Beyer, child of Sophia and Tristian Beyer, was baptized at St. Michael's. Please continue to pray for Ava as she grows in faith!

On June 7, we blessed six St. Michael's high school students who are graduating from high school. They were gifted quilts from the quilting group. Please continue to pray for: ***Angela Barsness, Grace Berndt, Marissa Breneman, Mia Carrico, Cameron Cramble, Abby Etten, Callie Sorenson***.

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!

Pastor's Letter

Beloved and Belonging

These last few weeks, the summer patio series small group ministry has dwelled deeply in the theme of belonging as they read Charlotte Donlon's book, *"The Great Belonging: How Loneliness Leads Us to Each Other"* Together they've reflected on what drives a sense of belonging, what serves as barriers to belonging, and how their own experiences of belonging and exclusion have shaped them. Belonging is a fundamental human need that shapes our mental, emotional, and even physical well-being.

Tracing the geology of our lives and pin-pointing the times we've felt isolated or felt held by community can allow us to recognize and recall God's presence in our lives. Psalm 139 proclaims the proximity of God in our lives as constant and inescapable:

"Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast. (Psalm 139:7-10)

No matter where we go or what we experience, as God's own beloved children we always have a place of belonging in the world, though this is not always easily evident. At times, it takes a disruption from our routines, habits, and comfort zones to truly recognize our belovedness and belonging. As I write this, I am preparing to leave for New York City for the high school service learning trip. After many years of participating in this transformative ministry, I've witnessed countless youth who begin the trip feeling disconnected to community and end our time together realizing how strong their bond is with their church peers. I've walked alongside them as they felt aimless in their future only to experience pride in what they are capable of and newfound purpose in their sense of self. I have felt my own doubt and discouragement melt away as I work shoulder to shoulder with these youth, remembering the ways Christ greets us in relationship and service.

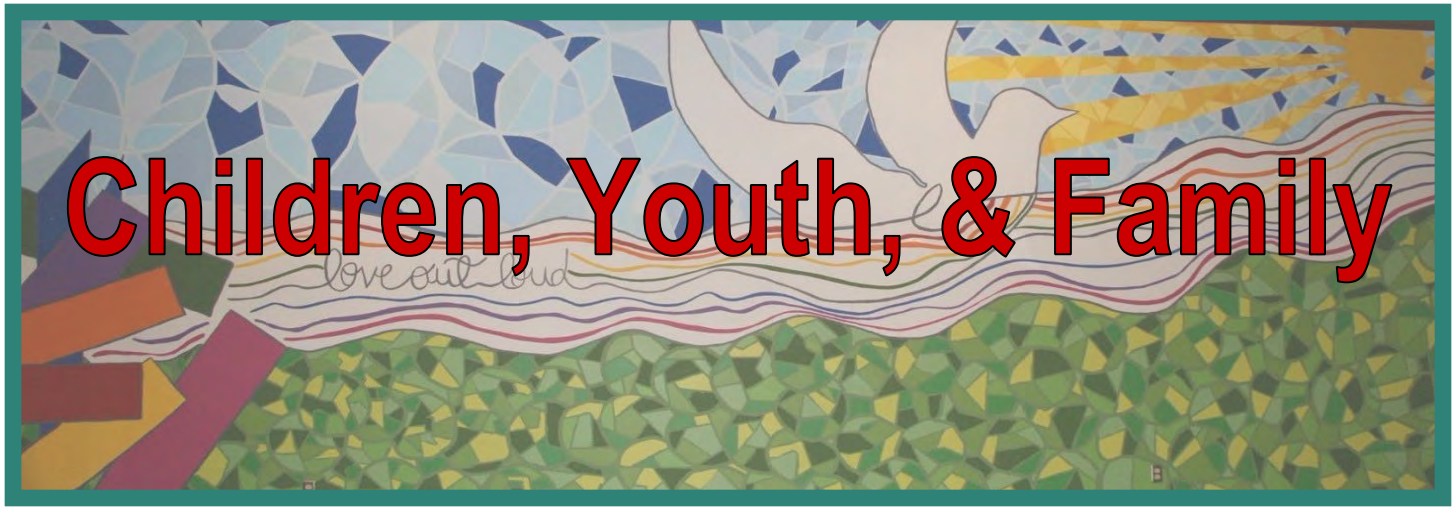
These days of great division, where messages of hatred are commonplace out of the mouths of our nation's leaders and acts of violence have become ordinary occurrences, the proclamation to God's children that they are beloved and have belonging in God is urgent.

So, I ask you what I have already asked the patio series participants:
When have you last felt that you truly belong?

What were the drivers for that belonging?

Has that experience given you any wisdom in how to create belonging in other communities?

~Pr. Ali Ferin



Exciting Changes Coming to the Children's Library

During July and August, you may notice some changes taking place in our Children's Library. The Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) team is working to transform the space into a Resource Room designed to better support the diverse needs of our congregation's children and families.

This new space will provide resources for children with a variety of learning styles and sensory needs. Children will be able to create their own worship bags with items that help them engage more fully in worship, including sensory tools, quiet activities, and other faith-based resources tailored to their individual needs.

Our hope is that this Resource Room will help every child feel welcomed, supported, and empowered to participate in worship in ways that are meaningful to them. We look forward to sharing more details as the project develops!

Grace and peace,
Natalie Romero

Director of Children,
Youth, and Family Ministries

Congratulations, Class of 2026!

On Sunday, June 7, we celebrated our high school seniors with gifts and a special blessing shared with their families. We give thanks for the generosity of St. Michael's Quilters, who lovingly created quilts for our graduates. This year, seven students received a quilt as a reminder that St. Michael's will always be a place they can call home and that they are forever wrapped in God's love.

WELCOME

NEW NURSERY STAFF!

We're excited to welcome Gabrielle Bell as our new Nursery Attendant! Gabby (she/her) is currently pursuing her Master's in Early Childhood Education and brings experience working with children in childcare, preschool, and mentoring settings.

GABBY

IAN

We're excited to welcome Ian Hitchman (he/they) as our new Substitute Nursery Attendant! Ian is a second year Education major at Hamline University. Originally from Iowa, Ian has always had a passion for taking care of younger family members and is often the "designated babysitter" during family get-togethers. During the school year he tutors second grade literacy and math. He has experience in teaching ages 5 to 11. In his free time he enjoys reading and embroidery.

PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING GABBY & IAN A WARM ST. MICHAEL'S WELCOME!

SUMMER NUSERY CARE

AGE 0-3 YEARS

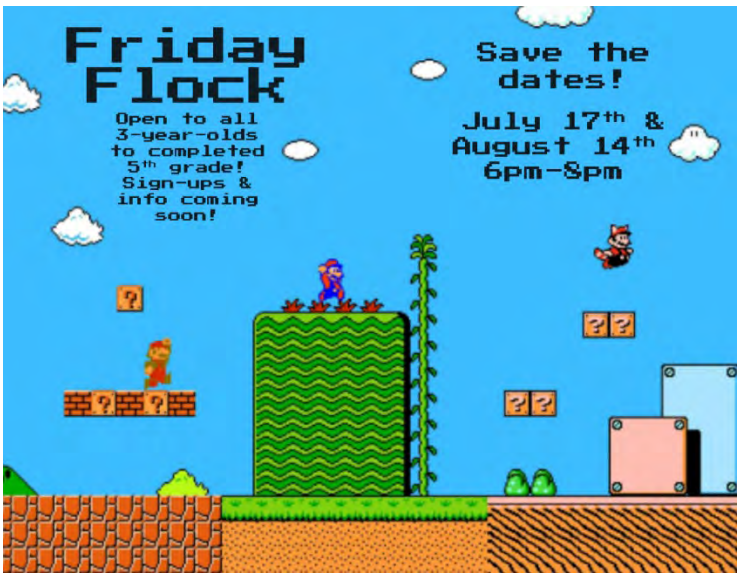
Sunday's 9:45am to 11:15am

NUSERY IS LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING (HALLWAY CLOSEST TO THE PARKING LOT

NO REGISTRATION NEEDED

SIGNING IN AND OUT ARE REQUIRED

SUMMER
camp
From July 5th to July 10th,
15 of our children and youth are heading to Luther Crest Bible Camp for a week of faith, friendship, adventure, and fun.
Please keep them, their counselors, and camp staff in your prayers. Pray for safe travels, meaningful experiences, new friendships, and opportunities to grow in God's love.
Thank you for your support of our young people and the ministry of camping. Your encouragement, prayers, and generosity help make these faith-forming experiences possible!


Friday Flock
Open to all 3-year-olds to completed 5th grade! Sign-ups & info coming soon!
Save the dates!
July 17th & August 14th
6pm-8pm

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 July 26 Practice at 9:00am for the 10:00am service
Monday July 27 Practice at 6:00pm for the 7:00pm Service

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

Social Ministry

Social Ministry Calendar

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

July 6 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. ***This month PEO is covering the meal.***

July 8 & 22 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.

July 12 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!

July 14 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.

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.

Fridays - Every Meal

On break for the summer

Brimhall Reading Program

On break for the summer

Loaves & Fishes *on hiatus*

Loaves & Fishes has discontinued its program at Holy Rosary/Santo Rosario in south Minneapolis. They are currently exploring other options as potential sites to serve meals. St. Michael's continues to be in touch with their leadership about potential opportunities to serve, but currently we are on hiatus. We hope to have more information in August for the fall program year.

Guatemala Partnership

Traveler meetings are now planned for Monday's before worship at 5:30 p.m. We will share all the tips and tricks past trips have taught us and be ready to answer all your questions! Our next meeting is July 27 at 5:30 p.m.

We are also excited to plan projects, worship, children's activities, and get to know each other as we prepare for our October trip.

Fellow travelers: watch you email for meeting invitations.

Contact Lisa Koland or Natalie Romero with any questions about travel to Guatemala.

Study and Fellowship Opportunities

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.

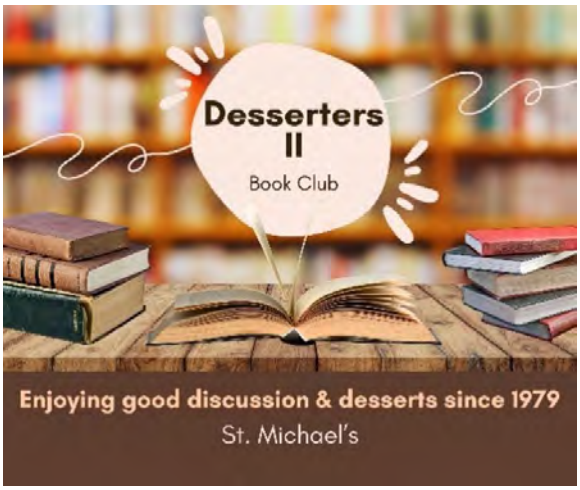
Contact Sue Kuhn or Jane Doyle with any questions.

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.

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 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

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

Esther Circle

Circle gatherings pause for summer and will resume in September.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday morning Bible study is on break for the summer. We will return after Labor Day with more learning and great conversation.

Faith in Daily Life

Faith in Daily Life groups are conversation groups that spend time over 2-3 months delving into a particular book and the topics that it raises.

Each year Pr. Brad selects 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.

Faith in Daily Life groups will resume following Labor Day in September. ***The August Messenger will highlight the books for the coming year.***

Yoga Devotion

TIME CHANGE for summer months: Yoga will begin at 6:00 p.m.
The next 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.

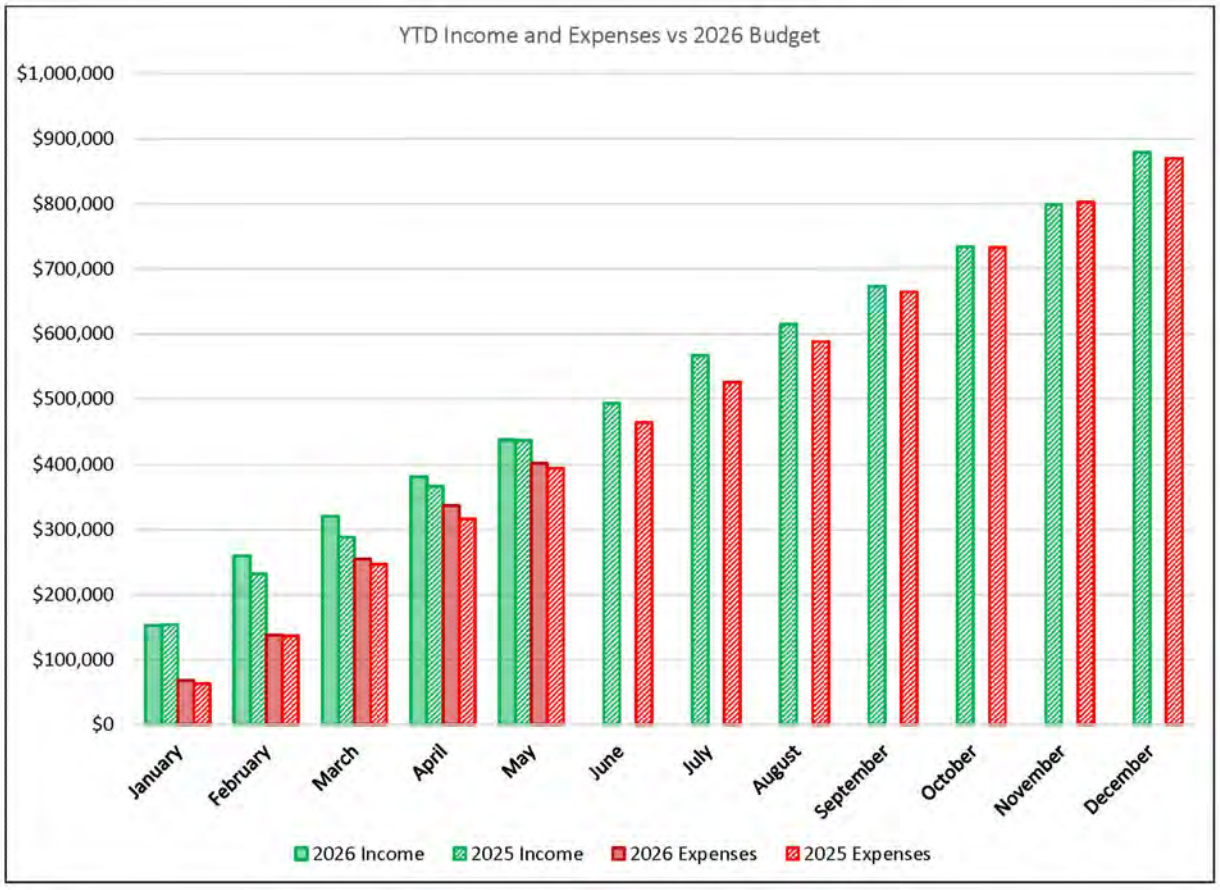
Monarch and Yellow Swallowtail caterpillars in the Butterfly Garden.

A Church at Work

2026 Budget Overview and Financial Update

	May Budget	May Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Annual Budget
Income	**$71,077**	**$55,822**	**441,742**	**$933,585**
Expenses	$75,072	$64,601	428,874	$933,585
Balance	$-3,995	$-8,779	12,888	$0

Up through April 2026 income was exceeding 2025 income by about the amount needed to meet our 2026 budget. However, May income was lower and now the year-to-date income is almost the same as 2025. We hope that the income rebounds so that it exceeds 2025 income and meets our 2026 budget. Income is still ahead of expenses, but we know that our trend is for that to be the case early in the year with the gap closing as the year goes on.



Church Council Corner

The church Council met on Tuesday, June 9.

Correspondence & Membership updates:
The council received information in the pastors' report about upcoming baptisms.

Treasurer's/Finance Report:
Dave Yarusso highlighted that we are still tracking positively on our Financials. April and May giving was not quite as strong as he hoped to see, will continue to monitor summer giving.

Preparing for Call Committee
The council will be creating a call committee for an expanded role for Children, Youth & Family in August. This committee would look at an internal process of meeting with and interviewing Natalie Romero as a diaconal candidate, once she is approved by the Synod.

Send Value Focus:
Emilie Moravec from The ELCA Innovation Lab spent time with the Council focusing for a structured process of reflection, discernment, and ideation focused on living more fully into the congregation's core send values of equipping in vocation and acting for justice and peace. Through a series of facilitated activities, the council engaged both individually and collectively to surface insights, name priorities, and explore concrete ministry opportunities for the upcoming program year! The council looked at things that are already happening at St. Michael's and the energy that is present; also, where we may be held back in living out these values.

Significant time was focused on parts of the community that we would like to provide additional points of care, connection, and equipping for vocation and service.

Property Committee:
Burle Gengenbach highlighted projects that will be taking place this summer—solar panel project is moving ahead with planned installation in August; updates to cooling in the courtyard room being explore; security team work to enhance safety around the church and for Northern Voices.

The next council meeting will be in person on August 11, at 7:00 p.m.

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 August *Messenger*?

The *Messenger* submission deadline is Friday, **July 24, 2026**

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

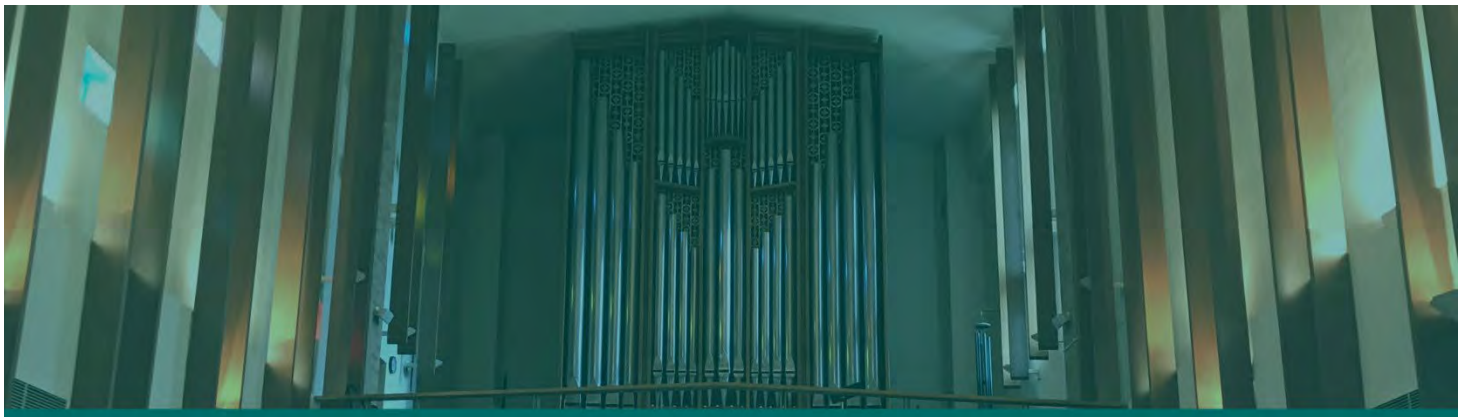
Peggy Mehen, Administrative Assistant

Gabby Bell, Ian Hitchman
Nursery Care Attendants

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

St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1660 County Road B West
Roseville, Minnesota 55113



Join us for worship!

Sunday at 10:00 a.m. - Livestreamed

Monday at 7:00 p.m. - with ASL

online at www.stmichaelselca.com