



In This Issue	
Pastor's letter	P. 1&2
Life of the Congregation	P. 2
Children, Youth & Family	P. 4&5
Confirmation News	P. 5&6
Social Ministry	P. 7
Guatemala Update	P. 7
Refugee Resettlement	P.8
Study & Fellowship	P. 9 -11
Music	P. 11
Council Corner	P. 14
Financial Update	P. 14
SMART Update	P. 14

## ... and it grieved God to God's very heart. Genesis 6:6b

by Pastor Brad Froslee



Throughout the early chapters of Genesis we encounter a God who is deeply engaged in the world and intimately connected with its inhabitants. God breathes and forms creation; walks in the garden with humanity; is moved by great emotion. Even after brother rising against brother, in the story of Cain and Abel, God maintains a deep sense of holy commitment.

Then in chapter six after the listing of generations and unusually long life spans, we are made aware how deeply humanity is missing God's holiest of intentions. We are told that God was sorry to have made humankind, and that it grieved God to God's heart. A deep sense of anguish. Yet, even then, God does not let go.

We hear the stories of promise—Noah and family, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Miriam and the wandering Israelites, the captive Judeans and their prophets, Isaiah and those

who dream and work toward a new day. God does not let go, but rather keeps imagining and reimagining a covenant with the people.

During this season of Lent I am aware of how many of us need to hear these stories again and again. The world in which we live is heavy with broken vows, wrenching news, depleting diseases, political wrangling, and existential anxiety. There is anguish. Yet, God does not let go.

Even with shooting after shooting on the streets...God does not abandon.

Following another police shooting of a civilian...God does not abandon.

With heartbreak, illness, hopelessness...God does not abandon.

The stories of promise hold our own frustrations, righteous anger, despair, and questions; and they draw us beyond ourselves and the challenges of our own life and times and into a narrative of promise. There is One who continues to draw us close in promise after promise and in story after story. There is One who will not let us go.

And, in this same way, we encounter Jesus. If God's deep sense of promise and connectedness hasn't been made real enough before, here is one who fully bears the heart of God to humanity—this itinerant builder-turned-teacher lays claim on the world and says that no matter how horribly wrong things go in this world, God will not abandon. But, more than that, Jesus also calls us to tune into God's very heart and how it impacts our lives—holding the anguish, holding out hope.

These become, for me, powerful elements of Lent. First, that we are wrapped in a promise so large that we cannot fully comprehend its magnitude. Second, we are then invited to live in this promise and hear more deeply the heart of God through Jesus.

*Continued on page 2*

During Lent we are “remembered” by God who will not let us go. And we are “re-membered” (re-put-together) by God who, in Jesus’ life and teachings calls us into a new way of being.

The questions before us are whether we are willing to really hear the stories and words of promise breaking into our lives and world, and whether we are willing to be put together anew that we might become a part of the pulsing of God’s heart that beats with compassion, mercy, justice, and deep love.

Lent, as a season, invites us from the place where we touch and know the grief of God—made so visible on Ash Wednesday, and points us onto a promise life and resurrected living with Easter. As we take this journey may we allow this witness to be our true Lenten discipline.

May we hold tenderly the despair in the world...and may we be bold to trust in the promise of a new life breaking in and reshaping the world.

With blessings for the journey,  
Pastor Brad

## Life of the Congregation

### In Memorial

On February 1, Terry Boehlke passed away in hospice care. A private burial was held in February and a memorial service will be held on June 4 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Michael’s. Our prayers and love surround Eunice, Krista, Gretchen, and their family and friends during this tender time of loss.

### Words of Thanks

Jon and Ginny Roadfeldt want to thank you for the prayers and kind words after Jon’s aorta surgery.

We wish to thank the St. Michael’s family for all the cards and words of comfort you have shown us since Terry’s death. It means so much to us to know he was valued, cherished by you!

With love,

Eunice Boehlke, Krista Klindworth, Gretchen Hermanson and families

## Worship Streaming Schedule

### Which Worship Service is Live-Streamed?

March 6: 8:45 a.m.

March 13: 11:00 a.m.

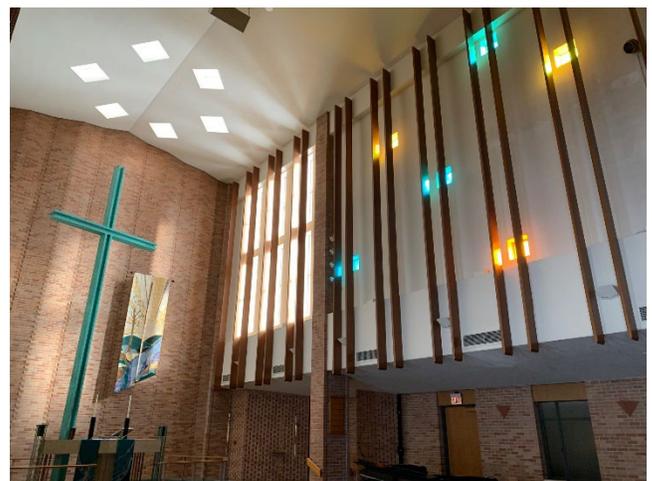
March 20: 8:45 a.m.

March 27: 1100 a.m.

Subscribe to the St. Michael’s You Tube Channel to watch worship live on Sunday mornings if you are not able to come in-person. Follow this link to the St. Michael’s Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbsN5e-O1XueIDWgrWE\\_lag/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbsN5e-O1XueIDWgrWE_lag/videos)

Watch your Friday Flyer for a copy of the Bulletin to download to follow along and a 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 on



# Lent at St. Michael's

## Wednesday Evening Schedule in Lent

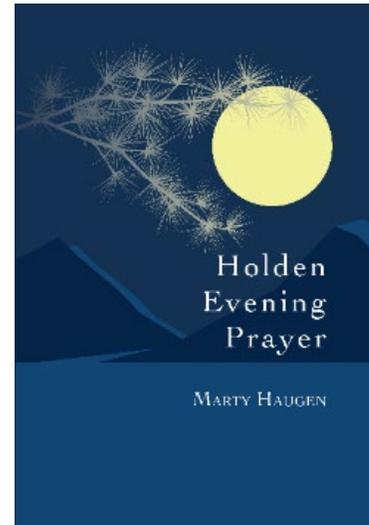
- 5:15-6:00 p.m.** Youth Bells (balcony of sanctuary)  
**6:00-6:30 p.m.** Youth choir (courtyard room)  
Set-up, preparation for Worship (sanctuary)  
**6:30-7:10 p.m.** Worship: (sanctuary)  
Holden Evening Prayer  
**7:15-8:30 p.m.** Adult Choir rehearsal (sanctuary)  
(Adult bells will move rehearsals back to Thursday nights.)

This year at St. Michael's we will be adjusting the Wednesday Evening Services and activities during Lent. Recognizing the challenges of COVID-19, there will NOT be soup suppers.

## Worship Schedule in Lent

Join in worship on the following dates:

- March 2:** Ash Wednesday  
Services at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
**March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6**  
Lenten services of Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m.  
**April 14:** Maundy Thursday  
Services at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.  
**April 15:** Good Friday  
Service at 7:00 p.m.



## Sundays in Lent: 'Test Driving' a New Liturgy

### "Sighs too Deep for Words"

This Lenten season St. Michael's will be trying out a new liturgy that has been written and developed over the course of the last three years. It is our hope and prayer that you will find this to be a rich experience of worship--within the traditional Lutheran framework, but with texts, stories, and words that give life to faith and experiences today.

In response to the ELCA's social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice" and the real challenges that come with holding together gender justice with Christian traditions, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis, St. Michael's, University Lutheran Church of Hope, Grace University Lutheran Church, and Edina Community Lutheran Church united to commission Emily Casey and Tamika Jancewicz to write and for Anne Krentz Organ to compose music for an expansive language liturgy entitled "Sighs Too Deep for Words." This resource honors the 50th Anniversary of Women in the ELCA's predecessor bodies, the 40th Anniversary of Women of Color, and the 10th Anniversary of partnered LGBTQIA clergy; it draws on womanist, feminist, and queer theologians' reflections on the body, and it gives special attention to women's experiences in scripture and in everyday life. The liturgy was also given shape after the murder of George Floyd, and the need to lament and to breathe new life into community. More broadly, this liturgy reflects the radical hospitality of Christ. This liturgy honors that we pray and sing without knowing exactly what to say, for it is when "we do not know how to pray as we ought" that the "Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

Join in singing parts of this new liturgy this season, and also in providing feedback that will allow us to refine this work.

*Canticle of Praise: Mary's Song*

*Refrain*

*Glory to God with all our hearts  
Come, worship God with all our praise*

*Our spirits join with Mary  
Singing her song of praise  
To God whose name is holy  
With arms fully raised*

*Stories of God's great mercy  
Each generation shares  
New hope for lowly people  
We know that our God cares*

*In Jesus there is promise  
Helping us on our way  
The spirit always guides us  
We trust what she will say*

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

2021-2022

## From Brian Thompson

Dear St. Michael's,

After consideration and conversation it is time for me to step away from my role as Children and Youth Ministries Associate at St. Michaels to be able to spend more time with my family. I am excited to engage in the children, youth and family ministry at St. Michaels in a new way as a parent and a member of the congregation. We as a family intend to continue to worship, learn and play at St. Michaels.

I would like to thoroughly thank the congregation and staff for this wonderful journey I have been able to be a part of. Over eleven years ago I was given an opportunity for a summer job engaging with the youth, that has turned into so much more. It has been awe inspiring to watch the youth of St. Michaels engage in learning, service and care for the world and each other. I have had the privilege of being with all ages which has made it incredibly rewarding to watch so many youth grow and take their many talents out into our world. I have valued the support of the parents and congregation as a whole for our youth programming and can not thank you all enough.

This time with St. Michael's youth and families has been incredibly fulfilling and I am working to support Natalie as she transitions into her role through this spring. I am excited for what her leadership will bring to St. Michaels and the youth programming. I know with the ongoing support of the congregation St. Michaels will offer fantastic opportunities to our youth and families.

Sincerely  
Brian Thompson



## A Word from Natalie

Friends in Christ,

Change is hard. As humans we inherently find comfort in consistency and routine. Brian has been an amazing constant companion in ministry at St. Michael's. While I am sad to see this change, I am excited for Brian and Lauren to welcome their second child and I can understand the challenges of balancing ministry, a full time job, parenthood, and more. Brian was and continues to be a huge support in my onboarding process. He comes with a plethora of knowledge and leadership skills. I am excited for him to be in leadership in different ways at St. Michael's and look forward to walking alongside him in that.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I'm looking forward to our conversations and recognition of Brian and his hard work and dedication to our ministries.

God's Peace,  
Natalie Romero

## Augsburg Youth Theology Institute

June 26 – July 1

The Augsburg Youth Theology Institute (AYTI) is an annual summer program for high school students (9th-12th grades) focused on theological reflection and vocational discernment connected to an annual theme. This year's theme is God's People [Re]Connect!

You can get more information like FAQ, What to Expect and apply by visiting the website at

<https://www.augsburg.edu/ayti/>

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Natalie at [youth@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:youth@stmichaelselca.com)

## Summer Service Trip



**Now open to students who have completed 8th – 12th grades!**

**July 30 – August 6**

\$50 deposit is due, have you turned yours in yet?



Be sure to fill out the [permission slip](#) too!

## Feed My Starving Children



**Saturday, March 26**  
**2:00-4:00pm**

**Coon Rapids Location**

401 93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433

For children 5 years and older,  
youth, families, and the St. Michael's community!

## Confirmation News

### Confirmation Lent Update:

Starting on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, the following changes will be made to our confirmation lessons:

- Unlike previous years, there will be no Lenten Soup Supper (due to COVID) prior to Wednesday Lenten worship. In previous years, the confirmation students have prepared and served this meal.
  - Because they will not be serving meals, they will have the opportunity to volunteer in worship! Confirmation students will meet at 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary each Wednesday in Lent. As a class, they will volunteer in worship; serving as ushers, readers, acolytes, etc. and worship together. *(This will count toward their needed volunteer experiences!)*
  - Families are encouraged to attend worship as well!  
Worship begins at 6:30 p.m.
  - Worship will conclude around our normal confirmation end time of 7:30 p.m.



*If your child/family are not yet comfortable participating in in-person worship, please contact Pastor Ali.*

### 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation

- March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6: Meet in the Sanctuary at 6:15 p.m. for worship which begins at 6:30 p.m. *(Please let Pastor Ali know in advance if your child will be absent)*
- There is no confirmation April 13th or April 20th.
- Normal class in the Fellowship Hall will resume April 27th.

**Learning by Leading:** Confirmation students are required to volunteer 5x at church or in the community this program year. Youth can volunteer with their family or friends! Once a volunteer activity has been completed, head to [www.stmichaelselca.com/confirmation](http://www.stmichaelselca.com/confirmation) to fill out the volunteer submission form. Contact Pastor Ali with any questions

### Confirmation Retreat Update

In January, Pastor Ali and other retreat organizers at several local congregations held a conference call to discuss the current surge in COVID-19 cases due to the omicron variant and the impacts this reality would have on the scheduled retreat. We heard from various families that their child would be unable to attend due to testing positive for COVID or concerns of exposure at this event. Additionally, Pastor Ali and her family were quarantined after testing positive for COVID the week prior to the retreat.

After discussing many options, we discerned **that postponing the retreat until spring** was the best and safest decision. We are saddened by this reality and believe that this retreat is a vital part of the confirmation program. However, we hope that by spring we will be able to provide this crucial content in a format that is both safe and engaging for the youth.

The new retreat date is **April 30th-May 1st**. In the coming months we will determine if it is safe and feasible to offer an overnight experience for this retreat. We will update families as soon as firmer plans have been set.

Until then, reimbursements have been issued to families who have already paid. We apologize for the inconvenience and disappointment this might have caused for your child and family. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Ali, [ali@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:ali@stmichaelselca.com)

Thank you for your understanding during this difficult season of life together!

## Keeping Sabbath - A Note from Pastor Ali



It is hard for me to believe that it has been almost eight years since I was called to serve as one of your pastors! In 2014, we entered a covenant of shared ministry that was formalized in my call paperwork. Outlined in that document, and in the Saint Paul Area Synod compensation guidelines, is a recommendation for Rostered Leaders to take a sabbatical every six years. You may recall that I had planned to take this sabbatical last summer. However, there were significant staffing changes and pandemic planning underway that I wanted to provide support and leadership for, so I decided to move my sabbatical to summer of 2022. I have been in consultation with Pastor Brad and the Personnel and Administration Committee, and with their support, have decided to take an eleven week sabbatical starting May 26, 2022. Before this date was decided, I received a request to preach at the memorial service of Terry Boehlke. I will honor this commitment and return for that service on June 4th, but will then be on Sabbatical until August 15th. As spring quickly approaches, I wanted to provide information about clergy sabbaticals and how this will impact the ministry at St. Michael's.

### ***What is a Sabbatical?***

The concept of sabbatical has biblical origins. The very root of the word is "sabbath" - a holy rest. In numerous places within the Old Testament, sabbath is mandated not only for people but for animals and the earth as well. In the creation poem of Genesis, even God took sabbath, resting on the seventh day of creation. Despite the command to keep sabbath, taking regular sabbath can be a challenge for everyone, particularly clergy, for numerous reasons; full day and evening schedules are common, holidays are often work days, and clergy are on call 24/7. Despite these realities, it is important to not only model sabbath but to take sabbath to avoid burnout. While those in academia may be familiar with sabbaticals as a time to research or write, that is not always the focus for clergy sabbaticals. Sabbath is not additional weeks of vacation, but rather an intentional time of study, reflection, and spiritual renewal. During my sabbatical, I will discover healthy rest through disciplined care for my professional and personal life.

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

### ***How is a Sabbatical funded?***

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

### ***How will this impact St. Michael's?***

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

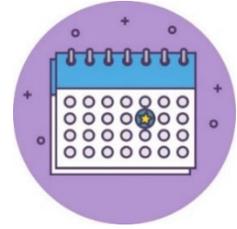
I want to thank Pastor Brad and the Personnel and Administration Committee for their encouragement and support to take a sabbatical and I look forward to how this opportunity will strengthen my ministry with you!

-Pastor Ali

# Social Ministry Activities

## Social Ministry Calendar

- March 8: Keystone Mobile Food Distribution  
2:00 p.m. -
- March 13: Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission  
10:00 a.m. Serving Area & Kitchen
- March 21: Loaves & Fishes Meal  
2:00 – 7:00 p.m. Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Minneapolis
- Daily: Panera Bread Ministry: Evening pick up at Rosedale Panera, Morning Bagging in Kitchen



## Our Guatemala Partnership

In Spanish, the verb "to grow," is *crecer*, pronounced *kre-sehr*. The word for growth is *crecimiento* (*kre-see-mien-to*).

As in English, the word can be used to describe growth in faith, growth in friendship or growth of a child. It can also be used to describe the growth of plants. There are many ways we are growing (*Creciendo--Kre-see-endo*) with our partners in Guatemala.

ILAG and the St. Paul Area Synod, with the help of Joan Felice, are teaching our Guatemalan friends to use compost to enrich the soil to grow indigenous food. Their gardens are growing!

We are growing in partnership with our fellow congregants in Cimiento as we send videos and letters, in lieu of a visit during the pandemic. We also grow in faith together as we remember each other in prayer regularly. Our partnership is growing!

Santa Cruz de la Esperanza is growing their church presence by seeking to build a permanent church building. Just as we look at building proposals and available funds, they too are saving and planning for their dream of a secure building. The church is growing!

The Holy Spirit is hard at work in this time of growth, keeping us connected and growing together across the miles. *Crecemos* (*kre-say-mos*)! We grow together!

## Land Acknowledgement

Last year, the ELCA 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.

## An update from the Refugee Resettlement Committee

We're at the four-month mark in our adventure with our Afghan family, and it's time to provide the St. Michael's community with an update: It's been an exciting, rewarding, and challenging experience for all of us—and we've learned a lot in the process.

### How the family is doing

- Jamiullah and his wife Guldosta are settled in their apartment in the Battle Creek neighborhood of St. Paul.
- In October, Guldosta gave birth to daughter Shkula—who is growing and thriving!
- Jamiullah and Guldosta are preparing to begin English lessons through a program of the St. Paul Schools.
- Jamiullah is beginning the process for obtaining a driver license, and he's also working on a job search with assistance from the Minnesota Council of Churches.
- The family has been enrolled in Medical Assistance and health insurance, and have been having regular health care visits.
- There still is some unfinished business regarding government requirements concerning a birth certificate for Shkula and some other details. (We're all learning that the system is complex and challenging to navigate.)

### How St. Michael's has been helping through its Refugee Resettlement Team

When you're new to a country, language, and culture, there's much to learn and things can be baffling:

- Thanks to the St. Michael's community for its generosity in providing goods and financing to assist this family in its transition to the United States.
- Thanks to Janet Hanafin for helping the family begin the early stages of learning English.
- Thanks to Dave Yarusso for teaching Jamiullah--through real experience—how to navigate the transportation system. (Imagine traveling on a bus or light rail when you can't read English—much less decipher a bus schedule, are uncertain about our currency, and don't know anything about how the city is laid out.)
- Thanks to everyone who is helping with transportation: including coordinators Rich and Kathy Callinan and drivers Dawn Westin, Irmeli Moran, Bettie Syverud, Jill Griffin, Dennis Skovsted, Jennifer Mehmel, and Ron LaFond.
- Thanks to Jennifer Mehmel, Ron and Sue Kuhn, Cathy Vanous, and all who worked to make sure that the family has clothing, furniture, technology equipment, and much more.
- Thanks to Dennis Skovsted and Dave Yarusso for working with Jamiullah to get phone and computer technology up and running and to get bank accounts set up and operational.
- Thanks to Irmeli Moran and Bettie Syverud for delivering meals on special occasions.
- And a nod to Joe and Mary Nosek and Irmeli Moran for setting up logistics so Jamiullah and his cousin Amin could purchase a live goat at the Concord Street Fresh Meat Market, and for accompanying them at the slaughtering and butchering of said goat.
- Thanks to Irmeli Moran, Bettie Syverud, and Mary Nosek for accompanying Guldosta and her relative Salma on shopping excursions to purchase appropriate clothing.
- Thanks to Rich Callinan and Citi Cargo for arranging the use of a storage container during the time we were first collecting household items for our new family.

### What's next:

- Our committee intends to continue its work with the family—beyond the six-month time frame initially set for our involvement. We are unsure how long our involvement will be needed.
- We are also discussing how we might help some additional family members who are now living in St. Paul as well as our family's wishes to financially help relatives still in Afghanistan.

# Study & Fellowship Opportunities

## Desserters II Book Club



The Desserters II book club will meet **by Zoom** this year for another season of discussing interesting books. All are welcome to join the discussions held on the **4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m.**

**March 22, 2022**

In *How Much of These Hills is Gold*, C. Pam Zhang questions how an Asian family can survive the gold rush of the American West.

## Men's Bible and Brew

**Thursday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Courtyard Room

In March we will be meeting in-person at St. Michael's. Come, bring your favorite beverage, snacks, and jump into conversation in the courtyard room at church.

This month, feel free to bring something Irish (beer, soda bread) or wear something green. We are going to spend a little time talking about St. Patrick and Celtic Christianity.

Join in conversation and fun with Men's Bible & Brew! And Happy St. Patrick's Day!



## Women's Circles

Women's circles are a wonderful way to connect, build relationships, and join others in conversation and study.

The *Sarah Circle* meets the first Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m.

The *Elisabeth Circle* meets the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Each month women from the church gather for conversation, connection, and learning. This year we are focusing our learning around Islam as we seek to better understand and support the refugee family from Afghanistan that our congregation is accompanying. All are welcome to join!

Sarah Circle: **March 1 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Courtyard Room.

Elisabeth Circle: **February 2 1:30 p.m.** in the Courtyard Room.

\*\* Please note the time change due to Ash Wednesday Worship

## Faith in Daily Life

**Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.(ish)** in the Courtyard Room

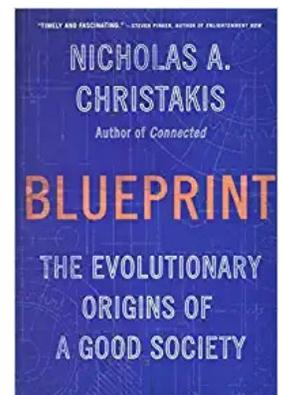
Faith in Daily Life is now focusing on our second book: *Blueprint: The Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society* by Nicholas A. Christakis.

This year as we continue to adjust to COVID-19 we will be gathering in the Courtyard Room at St. Michael's. Tables and chairs will be set up, bring your own lunch or snack. Come in door #4 (by the main office).

**Month 7:** *Blueprint: the Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society*

Chapter 7: Animal Friends, Chapter 8: Friends and Networks

**Wednesdays, March 9 & March 23**





Yoga Devotion winter/spring 2022 8-week session runs March 7 – April 25. Classes are 6:30 p.m. Beginners are always welcome! Classes will be held in person at church and will be on zoom!

Please register and pay at this link: <https://yogadevotion.com/class/yogadevotion-flow-with-sandy-st-michaels-lutheran-church-roseville-mn-zoom-and-or-in-person-3/2022-03-07/>

If you would like to try a free class to learn more about yoga, please contact Mary Drache for the zoom link and join us!

## DEI Matters

We welcome you to participate in a group to explore **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Matters**, using books and open, authentic conversations in a brave space. The focus this year is on our own race, racism, and white supremacy. These topics are geared toward adults and young adults. Reading 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 self-understanding through deep self-reflection and sharing our learnings with each other.

The group is facilitated by Laurie Krachmer, a member of St Michael's who has been engaged in diversity and inclusion work for the past 7 years and is a trained facilitator.

Meetings are at 4:00pm and last 60-90 minutes, depending on the need of the group.

*Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor*, by Layla F Saad

**March 20** Week 4: Power, Relationships, and Commitments through *Now What? Continuing the Work after Day 28*

**April 24** *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks* by Jeanne Theoharis

**May 15** *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X Kendi

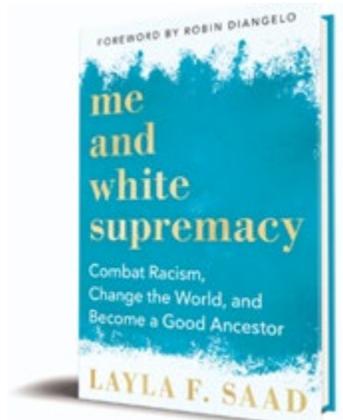
To get the most out of this program, it is recommended that participants start the reading early in each month so you have time to pause and reflect.

### Instructions for March 20 DEI Matters Pre-work and Zoom Meeting

Each month, participants will read and reflect on the questions prior to the Zoom meeting. Use the Zoom link in the Friday Flyer email to log into the meeting.

#### DEI Pre-Work:

- Read *Week 4: Power, Relationships, and Commitments through Now What? Continuing the Work after Day 28*.
- I recommend you read one "day" at a time and make notes of your responses to the reflection questions for that day.
- Be prepared to share one of your "concrete, out-of-your-comfort-zone actions you're committing to take or have taken.
- Questions we might discuss:
  - To what extent has your idea of feminism been under the issue of gender only?
  - How aware have you been of whether white leaders you follow are doing deeper antiracism work?
  - How do you feel about your friends who are not doing their own personal antiracism work?
  - How have you excused or ignored your family members' racist behaviors because addressing them seems too difficult and you want to keep the peace?
  - What contradictory values do you hold that hinder your ability to practice antiracism?
  - In what ways will your privilege need to change in order for you to consistently practice racism?
  - What three concrete, out-of-your-comfort-zone actions will you commit to taking in the next two weeks toward antiracism?



## Thursday Morning Bible Study

**Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.** at St. Michael's

We are now moving into reading the lectionary texts with an eye toward how the Scriptures are often read and how we might learn, grow, and be challenged in looking at the Bible through the lens of others' experiences.

We will meet in the Courtyard Room. Meeting indoors, we ask people to wear masks, and encourage all who are able to be vaccinated.

<b>March 3</b>	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13	The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. If you confess that Jesus is Lord, you will be saved The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days
<b>March 10</b>	Psalm 27 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Philippians 3:17--4:1 Luke 13:31-35	In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. The covenant with Abram and his descendants Our citizenship is in heaven from where we expect a Savior I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood
<b>March 17</b>	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9	Everyone who thirsts, come to the water; seek the Lord O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. Israel, baptized in cloud and seas, ate the same spiritual food as Christians Unless you repent, you will perish: parable of the fig tree
<b>March 24</b>	Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord. The mystery and ministry of reconciliation The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son
<b>March 31</b>	Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	The Lord gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings Mary anoints Jesus for his burial

## Music @ St. Michael's

### St. Michael's Singers, Adult Choir

Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary	March 2, 7:00 p.m. March 6, 8:45a.m. March 13, 11:00 a.m. March 20, 8:45 a.m. March 27, 11:00 a.m.

### The Chapel Ringers, Adult Bells

Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Balcony	March 20, both services

### Youth Choirs

Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
Wednesdays, 6:00-6:45 p.m. Courtyard Room	March 2, 7:00 p.m. March 13, both services March 27, both services

### Youth Bells

Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
Wednesdays, 5:15 p.m. Balcony	March 6, both services

# Can You Help?

## Join the Holden Village Team!

Located near Chelan, WA in the remote wilderness of the beautiful Cascade Mountains, Holden Village is a former copper mining town that has been transformed into a vibrant place of year-round education, programming, and worship. Growing from the love of Christ, Holden Village is a courageous community that welcomes all people into the wilderness to form and renew their relationships with God, the earth, and each other.

Serving as part of the Holden Village team provides a chance to live and work in an intentional, intergenerational community. If you have a few weeks, months, or years in which you are looking to experience something new, Holden might be the perfect place for you.

Holden Village offers short term, long term, employee, contractor positions, and opportunities for families to be part of the community. Positions range from Facilities Management to Head Cooks; Housekeeping to Carpentry; Heavy Machinery Operators to Medics; Communications and HR/Staffing to Lawns & Gardens; Youth Programming to Trails Crew!

Find application information and full descriptions of all openings at: [www.holdenvillage.org/volunteer/holden-job-board/](http://www.holdenvillage.org/volunteer/holden-job-board/)

Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Chris Hughes, St Michaels member and Holden Village Board member.

## Children's Books Needed

### Stock the Loaves & Fishes Little Library

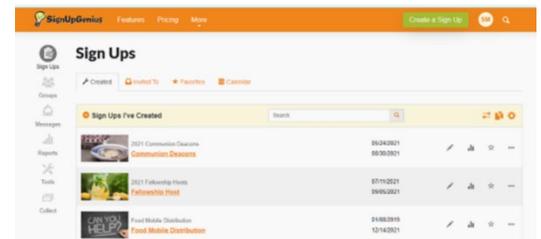
Do you have books your children have outgrown? We are looking for children's books, especial for ages under 6 years. Our volunteers will take the books to Loaves & Fishes when we serve meals for families to take home with them. Books can be dropped off at church.

## More Ways to Serve

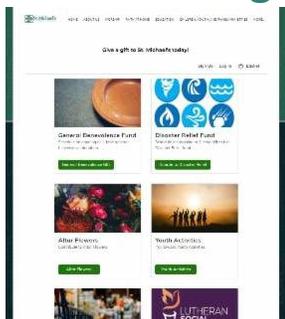
### Worship Leaders and Volunteers Needed

Being back in the sanctuary or outdoors for worship again opens up some additional volunteer opportunities for St. Michael's members. Check SignUp Genius for opportunities to volunteer for: **Ushers, Lectors, and Providing sanctuary flowers.**

Visit Sign-up Genius to see the opportunities awaiting you. The quickest way to get there is to visit St. Michael's website: [www.stmichaelselca.com](http://www.stmichaelselca.com) and click on the Volunteer Sign-up icon



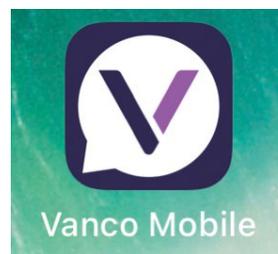
## Online Giving



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>

## Mobile Giving



Vanco now 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".

# A Church at Work

## Maintain, Sustain, and Grow

*A summary of plans for maintaining our church structure and improving its potential to support our goal of offering “Expansive Welcome” to our community.*

### Background:

We’ve known for some time that the exterior wall of our sanctuary was leaking, that the interior plaster was being damaged, and that repair was required to ensure the integrity of the building.

Ove a year ago, our Property Committee began talking with contractors about potential repair processes. Several suggestions emerged, which were presented to the congregation during informational meetings.

The Property Committee’s consensus was that an EFIS exterior construction system and additional insulation between the exterior and interior walls would make the most sense for this project. Cost was estimated at: \$440,000 (including affiliated projects).

While that discussion was underway, additional thoughts emerged about how we might renovate and reconfigure the narthex to provide better access, a more welcoming space, and increased efficiency to our building interior.

Discussions with LHB architects (the same firm working on the sanctuary wall project) yielded a plan for a new nursery near the narthex entrance, accessible restrooms, a coffee-bar/welcoming area, and more.

### At the Annual Congregational Meeting in January:

The congregation voted to:

- Move ahead with the sanctuary wall repair and affiliated projects, and to refinance our current mortgage in order to fund the project. The goal is to begin this spring and complete during the summer.
- It was also recommended that, before moving forward with additional projects, church leaders engage in a feasibility study for the purpose of determining whether or not St. Michael’s should conduct a capital campaign to finance an interior redesign and expansion plan .

### What’s happening right now:

The Property Committee is working closely with LHB on the sanctuary wall project. Design steps and bidding processes are being developed.

The Finance Committee has submitted paperwork for the loan for the sanctuary walls (and affiliated projects) and the refinancing of our current mortgage.

The Church Council is in the process of creating an ad-hoc committee to interview firms that might conduct a capital campaign feasibility study for us. Committee members are being sought. If you have an interest in serving, please contact Chuck Hanson, congregational president.

### For more information

- About the sanctuary repair, contact: Barry Eliason or Brad Koland, Property Committee.
- About the expansion project and the capital campaign feasibility study, contact: Chuck Hanson.

 Growing ..into the future



# Church Council Corner

The Church Council met on Tuesday, February 8, 2022

The 2022 Council members were installed during worship on February 13.

### The 2022 Church Council Members

Renee Berndt CYF Committee  
Brian Cihacek Treasurer  
Belinda Cline Stewardship Committee  
Sandy Eliason Council Vice President, Worship Committee  
Ginger Fairchild Council Secretary  
Chuck Hanson Council President  
Mike Krachmer Social Ministry Committee  
Deb Legan Social Ministry Committee  
Bill Lindquist Personnel & Administration Committee  
Aleksi Moran CYF Committee  
Mary Nosek Community Life Committee  
Peter Thompson Property Committee  
Greg Zarambo Finance Committee

### Meeting Schedule

March 8  
April 12  
May 10  
June 14  
July 12  
August 9  
September 13  
October 11  
November 8  
December 13  
January 10, 2023  
2023 Annual Meeting, January 29, 2023

The next church council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

## 2022 Budget Overview and Financial Update

	January Actual	January Budget	YTD Actual	Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$137,537	\$80,079	\$137,537	\$874,359*
<b>Expenses</b>	\$60,255	\$70,956	\$60,255	\$874,359
<b>Net Balance</b>	\$77,282	\$9,123	\$77,282	\$0

\*At the Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022, the congregation approved use of carryover income from 2021 to balance budget, if needed at the end of the year. This is included in the Annual Approved budget of \$874,359.

## SMART Update (St. Michael's Assessment & Reopening Team)

### St. Michael's Assessment & Reopening Team (SMART) Update

It is hard to believe that we, as a team, have been at work for two years. Thank you for your support and the incredible commitment you have shown to be a community in the midst of the pandemic.

We know that going back online for several weeks in January and pausing a number of activities held challenges for the congregation and for the staff. Yet, we continue to know how important it is to do our best in tending to communal health. A huge thank you!

As we prepare for the March newsletter we know that much is shifting with COVID-19 and our communal responses--and finally it looks like many of these changes will be for the better! We are seeing positivity rates decrease, hospitalizations are down, and a sense that we are moving back to more familiar territory.

SMART will have met on Wednesday, February 23 (after the publishing of this newsletter). We ask that you read the Friday eblasts and bulletins for updated information as we move into March and through the season of Lent.

It is our sense that we will be able to make some changes as a congregation, and we will be striving to make sure everyone is up-to-date.

With hope & gratitude!

Sandra Eliason, Deb Legan, Sarah Osterman, Dennis Skovsted, Hal Tiffany, Jone Tiffany, Karen Wilkerson, and Pastor Brad Froslee

## Not getting your *Friday Flyer*?

Are you having a problem with our weekly e-newsletter, the *Friday Flyer* not showing up in your primary inbox? First check your other inbox folders—it often shows up in a spot called the *Promotions* folder. Or it could be in your *Spam* folder. If a search of those yields nothing, then contact Lisa Koland at office@stmichaelselca.com, and we'll find a way to make sure the newsletter gets to you!

## Notes about the *Messenger*

### Got something for the March *Messenger*?

The *Messenger* submission deadline is Friday, February 18, 2022.

### Making the *Messenger* Green

If you prefer to read your upcoming issues of St. Michael's monthly *Messenger* newsletter on our church website instead of having a paper copy mailed to you, please notify the church office. Another option is to receive the *Messenger* via e-mail. Just let the church office know your preference.



## St. Michael's Staff Directory

### St. Michael's Lutheran

www.stmichaelselca.com

651-631-1510

#### Brad Froslee

Pastor

[brad@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:brad@stmichaelselca.com)

#### Ali Ferin

Pastor

[ali@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:ali@stmichaelselca.com)

#### Lisa Koland

Church Administrator

[office@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:office@stmichaelselca.com)

#### Natalie Romero

Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

[youth@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:youth@stmichaelselca.com)

#### Brian Thompson

Children & Youth Ministries Associate

[brian@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:brian@stmichaelselca.com)

#### Max Gouette

Communications Associate

[Communication@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:Communication@stmichaelselca.com)

#### Thomas Bartsch

Organist

#### Jill Schendel

Pianist

#### Karen Wilkerson

Adult Choir Director

#### Charles Preis

Adult Bell Choir Director

#### Cory Bock

Youth Choir Director

[cory@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:cory@stmichaelselca.com)

#### Wenshuai Zhang

Children's Choir Accompanist

#### Kaia Zeigler

Nursery Care Provider

#### Elliot Polzin

Custodian

#### Owen Hamer

Weekend Custodian



# St Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Roseville, Minnesota 55113