

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

Worship Updates/ Social Ministry	P. 2-3
Community Life	P. 4-5
SMART Team Update	P. 6
Youth News	P. 7
Guatemala Partnership	P. 8
DE I Matters	P. 9
Adult Education	P. 10
Staff Directory	P. 11

**News from  
the SMART Team**

On page 6 of this *Messenger*, you'll find information from St. Michael's SMART Team (St. Michael's Assessment & Reopening Team) outlining procedures for our congregation's reopening protocol.

Join us for worship  
Sunday morning  
Online at  
[www.stmichaelselca.com](http://www.stmichaelselca.com)



## From the Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Ali Ferin

### Everything is different... nothing has changed

This month we prepare for our first in-building worship services after over a year of worshipping exclusively online and outdoors. With the guidance of SMART (St. Michael's Assessment & Reopening Team) and resources and recommendations from local health officials, on May 23, we will host our first indoor Sunday service. Though we recognize that many will not yet feel comfortable worshipping indoors, for some this is a much welcomed change to this pandemic pace of life.

As we look forward to worshipping in the sanctuary again, we know this familiar place will feel different. There will certainly be fewer people in the building (as we keep capacity limits to maintain social distancing) and elements of worship will be altered.

New safety protocols means that parts of the liturgy, such as passing of the peace, offering, communion, and congregational singing will be modified or eliminated. Handshakes and hugs will be replaced with distanced greetings. Moments of conversation and connection will happen without a cup of hot coffee or tea, and our hands will be free of those sticky-sweet donut holes.

These noticeable changes all feel insignificant compared to the greater



losses of this past year. Beloved members of our community have died since we last gathered. We have bid farewell to friends and loved ones. Moves have been made to new cities. Babies have been born, children have grown, milestones have been missed - a year of life has gone by, and even the joyous occasions are laced with grief of what should have been.

The temptation will be to gloss over these losses in our desire for "everything will be fine!" and "getting back to normal," but there is no longer a normal to return to. We are different, our community is different, and the world is different.

We must listen for the laments we carry and the ones that live within our community, and give space for them to be heard and honored. With the trial of Derek

*Continued on next page*

Chauvin underway as I write, and yet another death of a Black man at the hands of police in Brooklyn Center, the anger and pain rising from our state is evidence that we need to take time to grapple with difficult truths and grieve together before healing can happen.

Fr. Emmanuel Kaongole Professor at Notre Dame University and Ugandan Catholic priest, once wrote that "Any resurrection of the body of Christ must begin with lament, which is an honest look at the brokenness of the church." The brokenness that the church carries is no different than the brokenness our world carries - human fragility, ego, failures, apathy - are just as present in the church as in the world.

Though we strive for the likeness of Christ, we recognize we are always needing to be born anew each day that we rise. So while our brokenness is obvious—what exactly *is lament*? An entire book of the Bible is dedicated to the faithful act of lament (Lamentations) and according to Katongole lament is the connection between pain and hope. Lament is the vulnerability to be honest with what is before us, and the courage to see what lies beyond us. Lament does not deny our suffering or brokenness, but nor is it consumed by it. Katongole reminds us that "we Christians need to learn to look, even in the midst of devastation, for the signs

and seeds of hope that God is planting."

God is planting seeds of hope around us, and in that way, everything may be different at St. Michael's but nothing has changed. We will continue to serve our neighbors faithfully, feeding the hungry, and advocating for the oppressed. We will continue to meet God in our relationships, showing up with and for one another. We will continue to proclaim the gospel of Christ through our music and liturgy, preaching and prayers, learning and questioning. We will continue to cultivate joy!

I know we are eager to return to our life as we once knew it, but the distance between what we experience now and the world we once knew, invites us into a public lament that has the power to heal and resurrect us.

*"Cry aloud to the Lord! O daughter Zion! Let tears stream down like a torrent day and night! Give yourself no rest, your eyes no respite!"*  
(Lamentations 2:18)

*...yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the LORD never ends! God's mercies never cease."* (Lamentations 3:21-22)

## We're Hiring!

With the news of Jon Bates' resignation from St. Michael's to pursue his goals of becoming a nurse, along with Mary Gail Hadley's retirement this past winter, the pastors and personnel committee have been working to fill open leadership positions on the St. Michael's staff. Three jobs have been posted publicly:

- Office Administrator,
- Director of Children Youth & Family Ministries, and
- a new position: Communications Associate. As we move toward worshipping in the building, we recognize the need to continue offering some form of online worship long term. This position will help us address that growing need.

To learn more about these jobs opportunities, head to [www.stmichaelselca.com/jobs](http://www.stmichaelselca.com/jobs)



## Worship and confirmation updates

### Weekly worship options

- Online worship service is posted weekly at [www.stmichaelselca.com/onlineworship](http://www.stmichaelselca.com/onlineworship)
- Starting on May 23, we will begin Sunday morning worship in the sanctuary. Worship will be at 10 a.m. Masks and social distancing are required. Currently, there will be no nursery care on Sunday mornings.
- Outdoor worship will begin on Monday, May 24, at 7 p.m. We recommend that you bring a chair.
- Sunday worship will be in the sanctuary and Monday worship will be outside.
- There will be no Monday worship services on Memorial weekend, July 4 weekend, or Labor Day weekend.



### Confirmation Updates

Spring Confirmation is in session!

#### In-Person Confirmation Spring Session

7th-9th graders will gather for outside, socially distanced classes on the these dates from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Sundays: May 2, May 16, May 23, June 6

Please bring a bag lunch, beverage/water bottle, and a pencil or pen. Plan to meet on the patio outside of the Fellowship Hall.

#### Online Confirmation Spring Session

Students who prefer not to meet in-person are invited to online classes with the pastors this spring.  
Sundays: April 25, May 2, May 16, May 23

Online Zoom sessions will be scheduled around the needs of the families registered for this option.

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## Social Ministry

### Social Ministry Calendar for May

Guatemala Gala	May 2
Panera Bread Ministry	Daily
Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission	May 9
Food Mobile Distribution	May 11
Loaves and Fishes	May 17

### Evening Panera Bread volunteers needed!

If you are looking for a low-contact way to volunteer and make a difference in the community, consider serving on the evening bread rescue team! Our volunteer team picks up the leftover bread at the Panera Bakery at Rosedale: 817 Rosedale Ctr (651) 288-1015 at the end of the day (9 p.m.) on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Learn more by contacting Pastor Ali!

### The next Loaves and Fishes meal is May 17

Join the St. Michael's crew preparing a meal neighbors at Loaves and Fishes in South Minneapolis on May 17. Learn more and sign up to volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084aaba72fa6fd0-loaves1>

## Special Olympics Track & Field Team practices at St. Michael's this spring on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m.

*The St. Michael's outdoor property will be host to the St. Paul Magic Special Olympics Track and Field Team this spring as team members practice. Here's some detail from St. Michael's member Paul Carlson who helps coordinate the team.*

Greetings! We are the St. Paul Magic Special Olympics Track & Field team — just one of a several Special Olympics teams here in the Twin Cities. We're excited and tremendously grateful to the congregation of St. Michael's as you welcome us to practice on your property this spring.

In "normal times," our athletes and coaches participate in track, softball, bowling, swimming, floor hockey, football, alpine skiing, basketball, golf and various social gatherings. This year, under the guidance of Special Olympics Minnesota, we have only been able to engage in skiing and track. Our athletes and coaches stay masked at all times, self-assess for COVID symptoms before every practice and keep our team to a limited number of participants.



We might not have practices and competitions like we've had in the past, but we're all about having fun and staying active. You might say we still Bring the Magic.

Again, thank you for welcoming us and if you have questions or an interest in volunteering with Special Olympics, please contact our Team Coordinator, Wendy Erickson at [thestpaulmagic@gmail.com](mailto:thestpaulmagic@gmail.com).

## Growing Through Loss series continues through May 11

*At Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Mounds View*

A new Growing through Loss series began on Tuesday, April 6, at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, 8211 Red Oak Drive, Mounds View, MN. It continues through May 11. All sessions begin at 6:45 p.m.

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

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

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



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

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

## Holy Hammers Habitat 2021 project update

This year, we will be working on a renovation of an existing home in White Bear Lake. This house was acquired by Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity through purchase on the open market. The work mainly will be interior work including renovating the kitchen, gutting the basement, and adding a bathroom in the basement. There will also be some exterior site work.

Holy Hammers



We are planning on a start date of June 14 but that could change if the COVID situation worsens. [Find more details about the project and how you can volunteer here.](#)

## Desserters II meets on May 18

Desserters II, the St. Michael's book discussion group, will discuss: *The Fire Is Upon Us* by Nicholas Buccola on Tuesday, May 18 \*at 7 p.m.

\*Please note, this meeting is one week earlier than our regular schedule.

## Men's Bible and Brew

**Note Date Change: Thursday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.**

**Note Place: In-person at St. Michael's**

This month the Men's Bible & Brew is changing it up. We are adjusting days of the week (to allow those in the golf league and who have meetings on Tuesday nights to join on Thursday). Also, we are going to plan to meet in-person at St. Michael's. The plan is to meet outdoors around a fire pit, so dress accordingly. Bring your own beverage(s).



As we prepare for Pentecost Sunday we will be looking at ways we are called to tell the story of faith, and ways that our faith challenges or moves us outside of our locked rooms (or comfort zones).

## A report on St. Michael's participation in Meals on Wheels

by Mike Krachmer

May is Senior Citizens Month, so this is a good time to offer a brief report on a critical service St. Michael's provides to seniors and others by being part of our local Meals on Wheels service.

St. Michael's has been delivering meals to seniors, disabled citizens, and their caregivers, in Roseville for many years.

- The pandemic has increased the demand for meals in Roseville by 29%.
- In 2019 the Roseville Meals on Wheels program served 18,943 meals.
- In 2020 the Roseville Meals on Wheels program served 24,447 meals.

Here's the part that dedicated St. Michael's volunteers played in that total:

- We delivered meals on 17 Thursdays (every three weeks).
- We took responsibility for eight routes on each of its delivery days.
- We generously invested more than 400 hours in the community through this service.
- Currently, we have 28 volunteers, and we have increased our regular commitment to nine routes on each of our delivery days.



To learn more about Meals on Wheels contact Mike Krachmer at [mikekrachmer@yahoo.com](mailto:mikekrachmer@yahoo.com).

## SMART Team update

First, thank you to each of you for your patience and support over the course of this past year.

SMART (St. Michael's Assessment & Reopening Team) and the church staff are preparing for next steps in facility use and reopening. Beginning the first week of May, pending vaccination rates, positivity rates, and maintaining MDH and CDC protocols, we will start with small group gatherings and rehearsals ; with in-person worship beginning on Sunday, May 23, and Monday, May 24. Here are guidelines:

### General Building Usage & Staffing

- We encourage anyone receive the vaccination if/when possible.
- We require that all people entering the building maintain 6' physical distance, wear masks, and use proper hygiene protocols (washing, hand sanitizing, etc.).
- If individuals or others with whom they associate have symptoms of illness, we ask them to stay home.
- During the weekdays please do not enter the Northern Voices area of the church.
- The church office will partially reopen. Please call the church office prior to coming to church.
- Opening doors and windows in church meeting spaces is encouraged if possible.
- Rooms will have signs noting the number of people who can use a space at any given time.

### Worship

- Masks and 6' physical distancing are required.
- The sanctuary will have seating areas marked and seats blocked to assist in maintaining physical distance.
- Singing will be limited to small group choirs/soloists initially.
- During indoor worship, worshipers will be asked not to move around during passing of the peace; communion will be pre-packaged and people will take communion in their pews.
- For outdoor worship, communion will be similar to Easter Sunday—worshipers will come forward to receive bread, wine/juice, and step away to eat and drink the elements.
- There will be no coffee hour after worship at this time.

### Church Groups

- Please maintain 6' physical distancing, wear masks, wipe down high-touch areas after use.
- We will continue to refrain from serving food or beverages at gatherings.

### Choir, Bells, music groups

- It is recommended that choirs be comprised of 12-15 individuals.
- Bells and instrumental groups may be 12-20 individuals.
- Singers should be 6'-8' apart and wear masks .
- Rehearsals will be held in Courtyard Room, Fellowship Hall, sanctuary, or outdoors.
- All singers need to be facing the same direction.
- St. Michael's has extra masks and/or face shields which can be used.

### Community Partners/Groups

- These groups begin meeting inside or outside at the church in May.
- Participants will maintain 6' physical distancing and wear masks when indoors.

### Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries

- Jon Bates, CYF director, is incorporating SMART guidelines into plans for these ministries.

SMART will be meeting again the first week of May to continue to update protocols and plans.

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

..... 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR .....

## At-home and In-person ministries

Use the following table to stay updated on our Sunday meetings of our CYF ministries. For our in-person gatherings, please sign-up at [stmichaelselca.com/cyf](http://stmichaelselca.com/cyf) .

### Sundays in May 2021

	10 a.m. - Online	11 a.m.- Online	1-3 p.m. (In-Person)
<b>Sunday, May 2</b>	Children & Company	Sixth grade students	High School Youth Group
<b>Sunday, May 9</b>	<i>Mother's Day - No CYF Programming</i>		
<b>Sunday, May 17</b>	N/A	High School Youth Group	Children & Company (K-5th grade)
<b>Sunday, May 23</b>	Screen Break	Screen Break	Sixth grade students

## Let's talk about summer!



### Looking forward for June

Stay connected with the CYF Newsletter or the GroupMe groups for our ministry plans in June. We're hoping that there'll be opportunities for connection before or after a worship service, or to meet at a local place for a hike, or another outdoor experience. If you'd like more information, please connect with Jon Bates.

### Congratulations, Grads

On Monday, June 14, we'll honor our 2021 high school grads at a recognition ceremony during the 7 p.m. outdoor worship service.



### Summer 2021

- We'll be trying a new ministry called, , "Friday Flock," for our children (K-5th graders) to take place on some Fridays throughout the summer,
- We'll offer a couple Service Opportunity Weekends for youth throughout the summer, and
- A Camp Amnicon trip will be available for our high school students.

If you did not receive mail from the church with information, please reach out to Jon Bates or review our summer ministries at: [stmichaelselca.com/cyfsummer](http://stmichaelselca.com/cyfsummer) .



## Guatemala is in crisis

By Sandy Eliason

**G**uatemala is among the world's most dangerous countries. The homicide rate is nearly five times what the World Health Organization considers an "epidemic." People face an insurmountable level of violence, insecurity and lack of economic opportunities. Additionally, multiple years of recurring droughts have destroyed corn and bean harvests, the mainstay of their diet.

The COVID pandemic has added to the misery, threatening access to food, education, and ability to work. It is increasing the risk of extreme hunger, with rising food prices and supply chain disruptions. It is restricting people from working as day laborers and selling products.

The final blow was two Hurricanes, Eta and Iota, whose heavy rains caused flooding and mudslides, leaving damaged roads and uninhabitable conditions. Total villages and crops were wiped out, as well as necessary infrastructure, displacing thousands of people.

Struggling with rampant violence, chronic poverty, failed harvests and finally devastating hurricanes, entire families have made the difficult decision to leave their homes and flee north, an exodus that highlights the need to address the violence, poverty and other root causes of this emergency.

ILAG, the Iglesia Luterana Augustina de Guatemala, is there to help. ILAG has been a constant presence, offering food aid, social support, and education to help raise people out of poverty.

This year's Guatemala gala (see below), in support of ILAG, focuses on education. The education ministry of ILAG keeps children in school and off the streets, and offers them hope of a better future. It provides scholarships to children who cannot afford education and keeps the village pastors and leaders connected to continuing education. Gifts to this year's gala will also support paying the school mortgage, buying educational materials, and providing technology for church leaders to remain connected and continue their education. Our support is crucial to keeping this strong education ministry going.

### Support our Guatemala Partners!!

**Eighth Annual Guatemala Gala—  
Sunday, May 2**

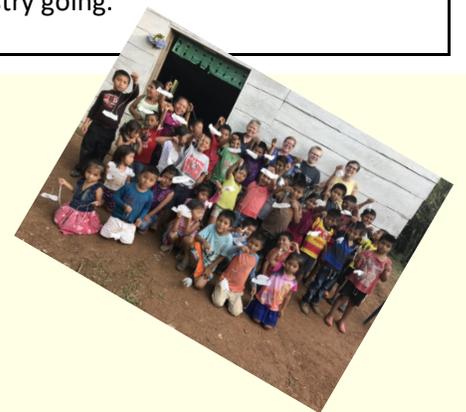
*Which benefits*

**Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala**

6:50 p.m. – Pre-Gala Music || 7 p.m.—Virtual Gala

[Watch as a Facebook Live Event](https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulareasynod) <https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulareasynod>

[Gala Information Webpage: Details and Donate](https://spas-elca.org/events/2021-guatemala-gala/) <https://spas-elca.org/events/2021-guatemala-gala/>



## DEI Matters

We welcome you to participate in a new group to explore Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Matters using books, movies, and more. The topics are geared toward adults and young adults. Reading and watching will be done individually, using thought-provoking questions as a guide. Group discussion, via Zoom, will allow us to consider how and why these matters matter. The purpose of this program is to broaden our worldview, learn more about ourselves and others, and make progress on our journey toward inclusion and equity for all. Meetings will be at 4 p.m. and last an hour or longer, if the group needs more time.

The group will be facilitated by Laurie Krachmer, founder of DEI Matters LLC and a member of St Michael’s who has been engaged in diversity and inclusion work for the past six years and is a trained facilitator.

May 16, 4 p.m.            Topic: *Caste* (note change of book)  
*Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, Isabel Wilkerson

### Instructions for May 16 DEI Matters Pre-work and Zoom Meeting

Each month, participants will read, watch, and complete activities and reflect on the questions prior to the Zoom meeting. Use the Zoom link below (also in the weekly *Friday Flyer* to log into the meeting.

Topic	Caste
Pre-work	<p>Read <i>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents</i></p> <p>Come with ONE topic/section/question you want to discuss—it could be one below or your own.</p> <p>Reflect on these questions/statements/sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Forward:</b> What’s your response to the last paragraph?</li> <li>• <b>Chapter 2:</b> “Exposed over the generations, we learn to believe that the incomprehensible is the way that life is supposed to be.” ; pgs 17-20, definitions of Caste and Race</li> <li>• <b>Chapter 4:</b> pg 48, last paragraph; pg 49, second paragraph; pg 50, first paragraph</li> <li>• <b>Chapter 6:</b> pg 68, The R Word; pgs 70-71, What does casteism in the marginalized castes look like in your workplace, church, family? ; pg 71, Where have you recognized your own casteist behavior?</li> <li>• <b>Chapter 11:</b> pgs 180-183, Where do you see or experience dominant group status threat in your life?; Pg 187, How do dominant group members understand/explain/use Black Americans’ anti-black bias?</li> <li>• <b>Chapter 20,</b> pgs 268-271</li> <li>• <b>Chapter 26:</b> 2016 U.S. Elections</li> <li>• <b>Epilogue:</b> “We can be born to the dominant caste but choose not to dominate. The fact is that the bottom caste... did not create the caste system and the bottom caste alone cannot fix it.” What will you DO?</li> </ul>

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86946206857?pwd=Ui9QOGp4dURmdG45dXZyV2RSc0djQT09>  
 Meeting ID: 869 4620 6857

## Thursday morning Bible study

## Spring 2021

We will have three sessions of Thursday morning Bible study this month, and then will conclude for the program year. We will resume Bible study in September. All are welcome to join this month as we explore the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday.

### May 6

Acts 10:44-48: *The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles*

Psalm 98: *Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands.*

1 John 5:1-6: *The victory of faith*

John 15:9-17: *Christ the friend and lover*

### May 13

Acts 1:1-11: *Jesus sends the apostles*

Psalm 47: *God has gone up with a shout.*

Ephesians 1:15-23: *Eyes to see the risen and ascended Christ*

Luke 24:44-53: *Christ present in all times and places*

### May 20

Acts 2:1-21: *Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds*

Ezekiel 37:1-14: *Life to dry bones*

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b: *Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.*

Romans 8:22-27: *Praying with the Spirit*

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15: *Christ sends the Spirit of truth*

## Faith in Daily Life

## Spring 2021

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

We will have two Faith in Daily Life groups meet online this spring (***the first and third Wednesdays of the month at noon***). Feel free to join either group for conversation. ***Find the Faith in Daily Life Zoom link in your weekly Friday Flyer.***

**May 5** Conclusion & Next steps

**May 19** Conclusion & Next steps

*These are the last two sessions of the program year. We will be selecting books for next year this summer and convening again in September.*

## Want to go green?

Did you know that currently about 300 *Messengers* are mailed each month?  
In addition, 55 people receive their copy via direct email. Others opt to read it on the church's website.  
If you want to change your method of delivery, just let the church office know your preference.

### The deadline for submitting items for the June Messenger is Friday, May 21, 2021.

Contact the church office( [office@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:office@stmichaelselca.com)) ,  
Pastor Brad ([brad@stmichealselca.com](mailto:brad@stmichealselca.com)),  
Pastor Ali ([ali@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:ali@stmichaelselca.com)) or  
Mary Nosek ([communication@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:communication@stmichaelselca.com))

## St. Michael's Staff Directory

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