St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Messenger

May 2026

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Worship & Education Schedule

May Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 3

Last Day of Sunday School

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

Wednesday, May 6

- Evening Prayer
- 6:10 p.m. in the Courtyard Room

Sunday, May 10

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

Wednesday, May 13

Last Wednesday Evening

- Evening Prayer
- 6:10 p.m. in the Courtyard Room

Sunday, May 17

St. Michael's Singers lead worship with Vivaldi's Gloria

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

Sunday, May 24

Pentecost & Memorial Day Weekend

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

Sunday, May 31

Beginning of Summer Schedule

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

Monday, June 1

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

Program Year Schedule

Sunday Mornings

Sunday School & Youth Group at 9:10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.
Religion in Life education series at 11:10 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Schedule

Community Meal at 5:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer Service at 6:10 p.m.
Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.

Summer Schedule

Sunday Mornings

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Monday Evening Schedule

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

Community Meals

Wednesdays at 5:00 -6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Join us each Wednesday for a community meal. All are welcome!

Wenesday, May 13 is the last community meal of the program year. They will resume in September.

Volunteer Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped make Lent and Easter a meaningful experience for the community! We appreciate everyone who stepped forward to serve as ushers, communion servers, lectors, cantors, acolytes, soup supper volunteers, Easter breakfast volunteers, altar prep volunteers, communion bread makers, tellers… the list is long, and we give great thanks to all who shared their gifts of time and talent with the congregation!

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.

ASL in Worship

ASL will be provided the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and Wednesdays during Lent. Please contact the church office for an updated schedule of interpreters.

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

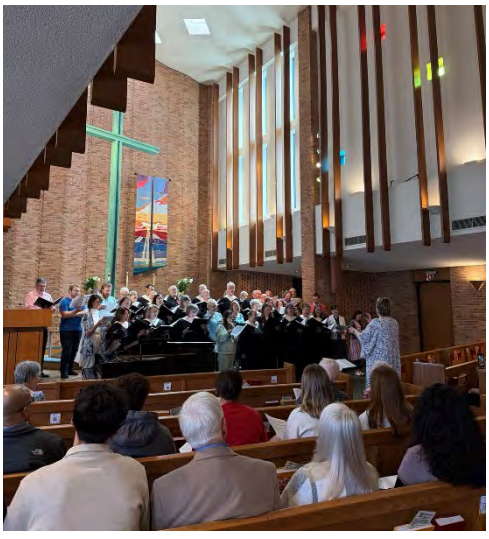
Fresh flowers at the altar each week will resume after Lent. We welcome you to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one with a dedication that will be printed in the bulletin. Use the Flower Signup on the bulletin board, call the church office, or sign up online or through the church website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

Music News

Vivaldi's Gloria

May 17th at 10:00 a.m.

Vivaldi composed *Gloria* in Venice around 1715 for the choir of the Ospedale della Pietà, an orphanage for girls. The Ospedale prided itself on the quality of its musical education and the excellence of its choir and orchestra.

Vivaldi, a priest and music teacher, composed many sacred works for the Ospedale, where he spent most of his career, as well as hundreds of instrumental concertos to be played by the girls' orchestra. On Sunday, May 17, the St. Michael's singers and guest musicians present the traditional *Gloria* from the Latin Mass in twelve varied cantata-like sections.

Religion in Life

Sundays, 11:10 a.m.

Join Religion in Life (St. Michael's adult education forum) this month. This is 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.

Religion in Life will begin at 11:10 a.m. in the courtyard room. Many of the Religion in Life sessions will be 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.

Schedule for May

Sunday, May 3

Dawn Simonson— *Aging in Place*

Dawn Simonson is the President and CEO of Trellis. Dawn champions organizational vision and provides strategic leadership resulting in services and programs that benefit older adults and their families in the Twin Cities region of Minneapolis and St. Paul and throughout Minnesota. With deep experience in aging issues, services and policy, Dawn is recognized for her leadership as an innovator and collaborator. Her priorities are to develop networks and other partnerships that support older adults to live healthy and secure lives at home. She was named one of 2024's 100 most influential people in healthcare by Minnesota Physician magazine, received the 2021 Ann K. Johnson Community Health Spirit Award from the Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation, and was recognized by the Womens Health Leadership Trust in 2022 for partnerships and collaboration. Dawn has a Master of Public Affairs degree from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota.

Sunday, May 10

Alzheimer's Association staff—*10 Warning Signs of Dementia*

Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia cause memory, thinking, and behavior problems that interfere with daily living. Join us to learn how to recognize common dementia warning signs; how to approach someone about memory concerns, the importance of early detection and benefits of a diagnosis, possible tests and assessments for the diagnostic process and Alzheimer's Association resources.

We are pleased to welcome the Alzheimer's Association this morning to lead this conversation.

Sunday, May 17

Fellowship Hour

On this Sunday, join a special fellowship hour in the courtyard room and courtyard as we take the opportunity to celebrate community and our shared work throughout the year.

Note: May 17th will conclude Religion in Life for the 2025-2026 Program Year.

The Planning team will be meeting in May/June to begin planning work for the upcoming year. If you are interested in serving on the Planning team please reach out to Pastor Brad, Roland Hayes, or Kelly Barkve. Additionally, if you have speakers/ideas you would like to recommend for future education hours, feel free to pass your ideas along!

Pastor's Letter

So That We May Be One

Like many of you, I was captivated by the Artemis II crew of NASA Astronauts who ventured around the moon last month. I was glued to my TV on the day of their planned return to earth and found myself falling quiet out of reverence for the 6-minute blackout period during their re-entry into the earth's atmosphere. My friends and I exhaled as the capsule splashed down off the coast of San Diego, and we cheered and wiped away tears as the hatch opened and all members of the crew were reported as healthy and safe.

This remarkable feat of the world's best scientists was a much-needed victory for our nation, a rare gift of unity amidst the daily onslaught of partisan politics, hate-filled rhetoric, and ridiculous and violent scenarios we now wake to daily in the United States.

But it was the community on board the Orion spacecraft that was the true triumph – throughout their multiple messages back to earth during their time onboard, it became clear that this small crew was a stunning showing of the best of what humanity can be. Differences were respected, grief was honored, joy was carved out, and mutual care and affection flourished. The crew displayed deep reverence for the mystery and gift of the earth, bringing humanity together with their inspiring embodiment of science and faith.

From the depths of space, Pilot Victor Glover shared the following message on Easter day, *"In all of this emptiness — this is a whole bunch of nothing, this thing we call the universe — you have this oasis, this beautiful place that we get to exist together,"* he said of Earth. *"I think, as we go into Easter Sunday, thinking about all the cultures all around the world, whether you celebrate it or not, whether you believe in God or not, this is an opportunity for us to remember where we are, who we are, and that we are the same thing, and that we've gotta get through this together."*

What a perspective, to behold the earth and recognize its inhabitants as one human family. Not nation against nation, tribe against tribe, religions seeking to dominate or leaders grasping for power. One human family.

This month in worship, we will hear from the gospel of John a prayer that Jesus has for our human family. "Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." (John 17:11b)

So that we might be one.

On the days where my rage takes hold - when I witness bombings of neighborhoods in countries not so far away, and blasphemy profanes our faith from halls of power, and greed overcomes the hearts of leaders – I find myself turning to this same prayer, that we might find the will and the way to see one another as one human family as God desires.

Back on earth, Mission Specialist Jeremy Hansen took the stage during welcome home ceremony in Houston Texas, where he shared the following:

"What you saw was a group of people who loved contributing, having meaningful contribution, and extracting joy out of that. And what we've been hearing is that was something special for you to witness… I would suggest to you that when you look up here, you're not looking at us. We are a mirror reflecting you. And if you like what you see, then just look a little deeper. This is you."

What a beautiful reminder from our astronaut preacher, that we already have what we need to share in the joy and purpose of being a part of this one human family.

Christ's prayer of unity has already been enacted; it is simply up to us recognize it and live this truth each day upon this rotating space rock hurling through the universe… this one, precious earth that God so loves!
~ Pr. Ali

Life of the Congregation

Welcome!

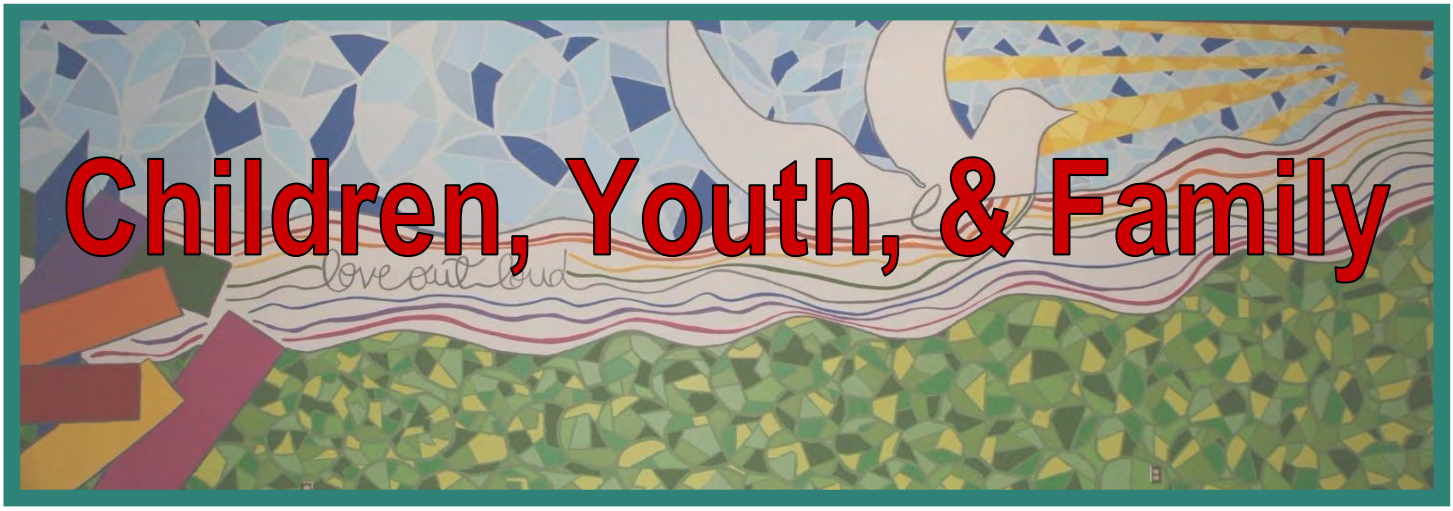
We give thanks to God for Judith Eno, who was baptized on April 12th. Judith is the daughter of Kaisa and Greg, and the sister of Sylvia, Anders, Mabel, and Matilda. Please continue to keep Judith in your prayers as she grows in faith!

On April 19th, we received new members in worship! We give thanks to God for the gift of community and the presence of the following new members:

Aston & Sierra Arcega
Kat Bourque
Christine Chitambar & Seth Baker, Lucy, Theo, & Dylan
Allison Downs
Tracey Gennrich
Marge Lauring
Cassie Paulsen
Annie, George, and Franklin Strupeck

A Special Quilt

This April, the friends at Quilting & Bandage Rolling worked on a special quilt and took time to rember and honor a friend they miss. This was the last quilt that Ginny Perman pieced together so they took their time with the backing and edging and told stories and reminisced about the many quilts they had worked on together.



The Spiritual Practice of Play

In a recent preaching class, we spent time talking about something that, at first, didn't feel very "sermon-like' at all: *play.* Not structure, not theology, not even Scripture interpretation—but play. It caught me off guard.

In my small group, we talked about how good preaching doesn't just inform—it imagines. It wonders. It notices. It makes space for curiosity and creativity; it requires the kinds of openness we usually associate with children at play.

As a long time children and youth minister, this just made sense to me. Discussing it more with my classmates, I was able to bring an understanding that it wasn't just about preaching; it was about faith.

Somewhere along the way, many of us learned to separate "fun" from "faith." Faith became serious, structured, and scheduled. Play became extra, optional, or even a distraction. If you aren't sure how much play has changed for children and youth today, ask a lower elementary schoolteacher.

When I became a parent, I found myself not even knowing how to play at times. It took a lot of effort and intention. As someone who frequently "plays" within my job, I realized how much of it was structured and planned, hoping for a certain outcome, instead of allowing the Spirit to guide the play.

So what if ***play*** is actually a spiritual practice?

When kids play, they are fully present. They aren't worried about yesterday or tomorrow. They are immersed in wonder, creativity, and their feelings. They take ordinary things and make them into something new. They imagine worlds, tell stories, and invite others in.

That sounds a lot like the kind of faith Jesus points us toward. Play reminds us how to be present instead of rushed; curious instead of certain; experiential instead of performative.

Here is the part that has been sitting with me as summer approaches: We don't need to allow our kids to play—we are invited to join them. Not from the sidelines. Not while checking our phones. But *with them*. To get on the floor; jump in the water; to say yes to one more game, one more story, one more moment.

As summer approaches, the days can feel long, but the weeks move fast. It's easy to fill them with plans, camps, and schedules (all good things!) while missing the simple, sacred moments right in front of us.

As a parent, working full time, I know the pressure of how much we all have on our plates. I don't share this perspective because parents need one more thing to do or be for others, but I share it because I believe play can soften us in a world that is very difficult right now. Playing with our kids not only forms us but tells them that they matter. It reconnects us. It reminds us that God is not only found in the quiet devotion or structured prayer, but also in laughter, imagination, and play.

Our "playful" Director of CYF taking on the role of Lazarus for a Children's Sermon on March 22nd.

So, this summer, I am challenging myself to not treat play as something extra to squeeze in but as something essential. I am going to lean into the idea that God will meet me, will meet us in the play. Not in perfection. Not in productivity. But in the middle of a game, a giggle, a messy moment of joy.

Play a little longer...you might just find that God is already there.

Natalie Romero
Director of Children,
Youth, and Family Ministries

Confirmation Updates

Thank you Confirmation Small Group Leaders!
Week after week confirmation small group leaders led students in devotions, discussions, and games. We are grateful for their commitment to be a supportive adult in the young people in our church! Thank you to Abbie Hanson, Amelia Cihacek, Chuck Hanson, and Aleksi Moran for leading through chaos and joy of youth ministry!

Our New Intern = Our Old Staff Member!

Road to Diaconal Ministry
In recent months our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Natalie Romero, has also become our Luther Seminary Intern.

This is to complete the requirements to become an ordained deacon in the ELCA. Natalie is currently completing course work at Luther Seminary and will graduate in May; she will complete her congregational internship this summer here at St. Michael's.

While Pastor Ali serves as Natalie's regular staff liaison, for this internship Natalie is working with Pastor Brad to differentiate between "normal" work and internship work. Natalie's internship requires 1) the formation of an internship committee—this committee includes Jon Rogness (chair), Casey Martin, Maria Zarambo, Brad Koland, and Grace Berndt; 2) the development and implementation of internship goals and a project; 3) a 1 month, 3 month, and final check-in or evaluation at the six-month completion. There is also a recommendation in conjunction with the seminary to the Saint Paul Area Synod on final approval to become a deacon.

In mid-April Natalie and Pastor Brad attended a 2 ½ day retreat for interns and supervisors in Spicer, Minnesota. They gathered with other church leaders and interns from the Twin Cities, Northwest Minnesota, and Northwest Wisconsin. This was an opportunity to engage with Luther Seminary staff and move through the internship process together. This also provided a great opportunity to share in reflecting on ministry after the busy-ness of the Easter season.

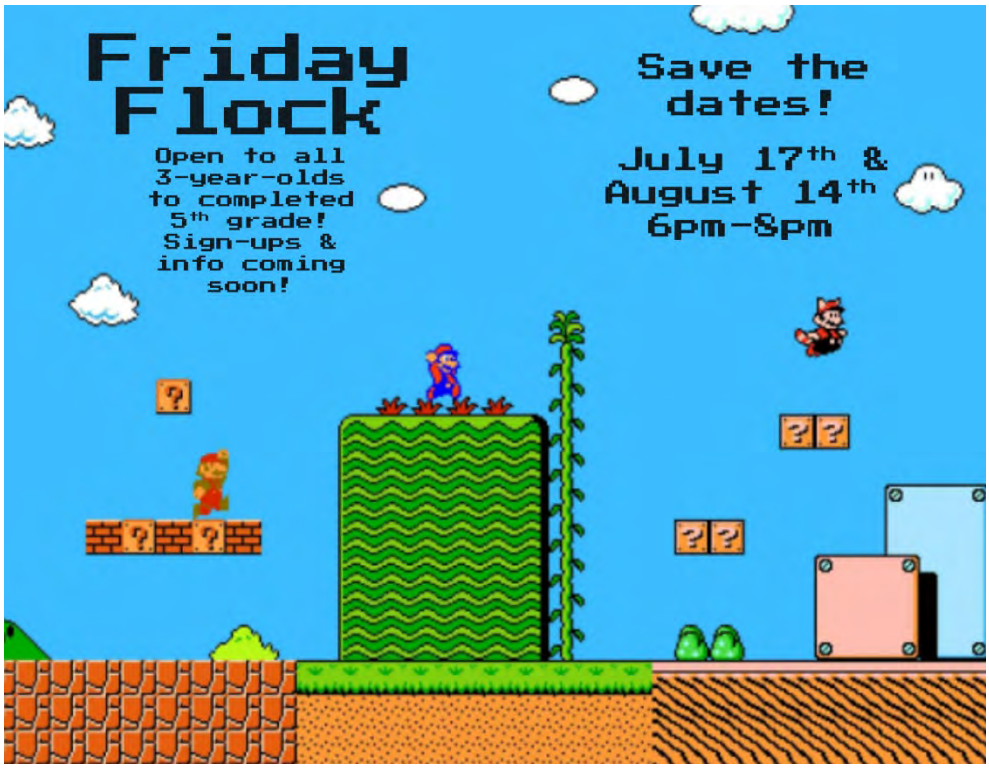
Some things to look forward to:

- Natalie will be preaching and leading worship (some of you likely have seen her serving as assisting minister in recent months), she will have also preached in April and will be preaching again 1-2 times this summer.
- Natalie has created goals for her internship and will likely be seeking feedback from the congregation.
- Natalie will be completing her project this summer.
- Our church council will be planning to create a call committee this summer to officially call Natalie to serve as a deacon at St. Michael's. We anticipate Natalie being called into this new role, pending an affirmative vote by the congregation, later this fall.
- Pastor Brad, Pastor Ali, and the church council will be enhancing the position description of CYF to expand the role to serve our CYF programming and the congregational and community leadership of a deacon.

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

Stay tuned for more updates in coming months.

Service Trip
Important Dates
• April 26th
◦ noon-2pm
• May 3rd
◦ noon-2pm
• Parent Meeting
◦ June 14th @ 11:15am
• Final Payment Due: April 30th
NEW YORK


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

Thank you!

FOR ST. MICHAEL'S CONTINUED SUPPORT BUT ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO DONATED AND SUPPORTED OUR EASTER BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER.

AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO COOKED, SERVED, AND SO MUCH MORE TO PUT ON A GREAT BREAFKAST!

High School Senior Recognition

JUNE 7, 2026
10AM WORSHIP
JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

If you have a High School Senior & have not recived any of the commmunications sent out, please reach out to Natalie ASAP at youth@stmichaelselca.com

May 3rd

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL& TEACHER APPRECIATION

Drop off at 9:10am

Student Presentation & Refreshements at 9:30am

Social Ministry

Social Ministry Calendar

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

May 4 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.***

May 10 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!

May 12 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.

May 13 & 27 Quilting and Bandage Rolling

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

Daily - Panera Bread Ministry

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

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

Fridays - Every Meal

As part of this outreach St. Michael's Volunteers distribute food at Parkview Center School on Fridays during the school year, in order that children and youth have meals they can prepare at home over the weekend. Every Meal food distribution will be wrapping up this month for the school year, but if you are interested in getting involved during the 2026-2027 school year please reach out to Pastor Brad.

Brimhall Reading Program

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

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.

Guatemala Partnership

Traveler meetings are now planned for the first Sunday each month (usually) at 11:00 a.m. after church. We will share all the tips and tricks past trips have taught us and be ready to answer all your questions!

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

Golf League

We're looking for a fun non-competitive year of bad golf and good stories, with food afterwards. What could be better?

The season will begin on **Tuesday, May 5th, and end on Tuesday, August 25th**. We will play the week of July 4th.

Tee times start at 5:04 p.m.
We have 20 spots.

The look and feel of the league will reflect past years. You show up when you're able to play and self-organize into foursomes. We will also go to nearby Como Park for burgers and beverages or order from Como's Cozy restaurant.

Payment remains the same as last year.

Pay as you play with no upfront payment.

Cost

$27 per 9-hole round.
$25 per 9-hole round for Senior's
$29 Twilight for those who want to play 18 holes

If you have any questions regarding the league from St. Michael's/Roseville Lutheran contact one of these two scratch golfers. See you on the course!

Jim Stark at jim.stark3215@gmail.com
Chuck Hanson at hanson2456@gmail.com

Save the Date for the Summer Patio Series Kick Off Party!

Sunday June 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Make plans to join the Summer Patio Series, a small group ministry for women that takes place over the course of the summer in homes, or on patios, pontoons, and restaurants across the cities! Small groups meet on the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month on either Sunday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings.

You pick the location, Pastor Ali picks the book! Book discussion guides will be provided for small group conversation. More information to come!

The Wednesday Evening Discussion Group

May 6 & 13

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

Esther Circle – Savoring Traditions

Join us on May 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the Courtyard Room for our final conversation on *Savoring Traditions, Stories From Around the Table*

The June gathering will be a luncheon to celebrate the end of the year together. Contact Sandy Gibson for more information.

Circle gatherings pause for summer and will resume in September.

Men's Bible and Brew

Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.

We're shaking it up!
This month we are going to meet on ***Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m.***

Gather in the Courtyard Room/Courtyard at St. Michael's, and bring a favorite lawn game and favorite brew. We look forward to a light-hearted evening of bean bags, croquette, lawn darts, big Jenga, or other activities.

This is an opportunity to enjoy being together and get ready for summer!

Faith in Daily Life

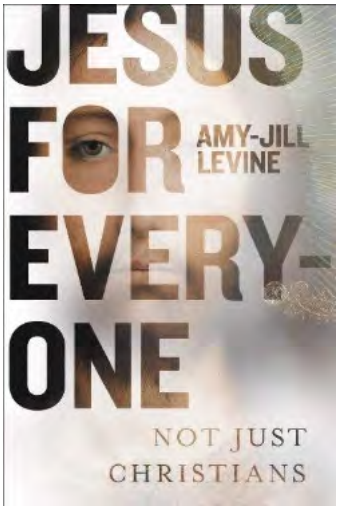
Faith in Daily Life groups read a variety of books focusing on theology, scripture, current events, and topics facing the church and world today. It is an opportunity to connect with others in learning, conversation, and faith.

In May and June we will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at St. Michael's in Classroom 1 at 12:00 p.m.

Upcoming dates:

May 13	St. Michael's
June 10	St. Michael's

We will be reading a book written by the Jewish New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine.



In this book she makes the argument as to why Jesus's historic and cultural influence makes him fascinating, provocative, and relevant for everyone, not only Christians.

Two thousand years after his birth and death, Jesus of Nazareth continues to be of vital interest. Yet much of the scholarship around Jesus focuses on his religious significance. *Jesus for Everyone* examines his most famous teachings from a fresh perspective, exploring their roots in his Jewish context and how they have continued to shape ethics and civilization in the West for two millennia.

Even for those who reject faith, Jesus's life and his philosophy are important to study, writes renowned biblical scholar and author Amy-Jill Levine, because of the insights they hold for us today. In this work of brilliant New Testament analysis, she pores through scripture, analyzing what historical scholarship has revealed about Jesus's views on a number of subjects—including women—revealing surprising messages.

Placing Jesus of Nazareth within his historical context, Levine brings him vividly into focus and invites everyone from faithful Christians and curious Jews to agnostics and the most committed nonbelievers to a new kind of interreligious dialogue and a deeper appreciation of his lasting impact on the modern world.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

9:30 a.m. Thursday Mornings

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

Most weeks, the class focuses on the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. On occasion, we will delve into particular books of the Bible, a theme or narrative found in scripture, or highlight the works of various scholars as they think about the texts.

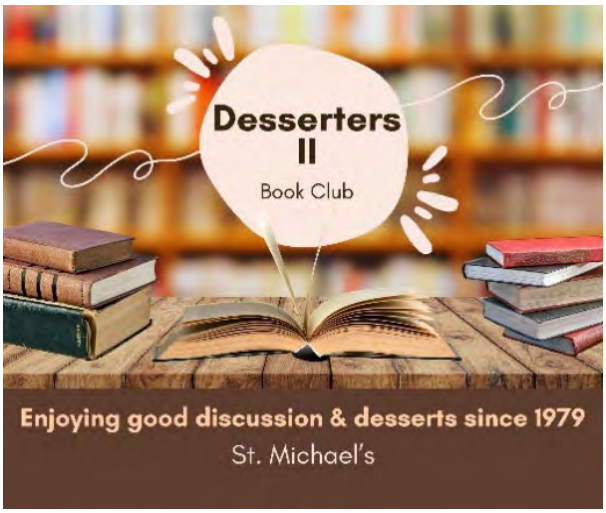
Thursday, May 7

Acts 17:22-31	Paul's message to the Athenians
Psalm 66:8-20	Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.
1 Peter 3:13-22	The days of Noah, a sign of baptism
John 14:15-21	Christ our advocate

Thursday, May 14

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

Thursday, May 21	**Final class of the Program Year**
Numbers 11:24-30	The Spirit comes upon the elders of Israel
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit
Acts 2:1-21	Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds
John 20:19-23	The Spirit poured out



Desserters II Book Discussion Group

Join us Tuesday, May 19 (one week Early):
Where Rivers Part: A Story of My Mother's Life by Kao Kalia Yang

This memoir follows Tswb Muas, from her childhood in Laos, to a refugee camp in Thailand, to a new home in St. Paul where she enrolls in high school at 30 while providing for her family. Winner of a Minnesota Book Award, 2025.

All are welcome
Meetings: 7:00 in Classroom 1 at the church
Desserts are provided. BYOBeverage
Contact Verena Larson with questions

Yoga Devotion

The next session is May 11 – June 29, 2026
Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
7 weeks, $77.

Join Yogadevotion in partnership with St. Michael's for a mat-based yoga class that incorporates strengthening poses and balancing poses. Join virtually or in person!

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:

yogadevotion
practicing in the Presence

A Church at Work

Rain Garden Update 2026

Now that Spring has arrived, our rain garden at the NE corner of the church has come to life as the plantings have begun to show their new growth. It is also the time for several seasonal maintenance projects to meet the conditions of the Grant funding we received in 2024.

These Projects are outlined for us by the Watershed District and include:

- -Clean out catchment areas (where debris settles after the winter)
- -Cut down weeds (guide available for identification)
- -Check water flow and infiltration by clearing any pipe blockage
- -Check for erosion issues after large storm events
- -Care for plants by pruning and/or replacing dead or diseased plants

We will plan to have maintenance days until the end of the growing season; usually these will take place near May Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day and MEA Conferences

Brian Cihacek, who is a member of St. Michaels and who is a certified Master Gardener will be helping us with these tasks and providing expertise.

If you are interested in learning more about our rain garden, or in providing a hand with some of these tasks this season, please contact Property Committee Member Doug Schumacher.

What's New in the Courtyard?

As many of you have probably noticed, the Courtyard has gone from a blank grassy canvas to a hint of transformations to come. A working group was formed in late January to begin envisioning how to fill in this canvas, and, as you can see, that work has begun.

With a design plan in mind, we set about the task of creating separate distinctive areas in this outdoor space on a trial basis. Seating arrangements in two areas, the repositioning of the peace pole and bench, and new plantings along the hallway windows were added as a start.

This is a project that many of us have been excited about getting underway and now it is happening. If you or your family would like to contribute to the ongoing effort to transform the courtyard, you may make a special contribution to the Courtyard Fund by dropping off your donation in the church office.

The Property Committee

Church Council Corner

The Church Council met on Tuesday, April 14.

The council received membership updates recognizing the recent baptism of Judith Eno, and new members joining on April 19.

The congregation has also received a request to support Lutheran World Relief for their relief work around the world. The council will be following up on this request.

Dave Yarusso, treasurer, and the Finance Committee provided reports. Year-to-date financials are looking good.

The Church Council has assembled a Constitution Committee to review our constitution and bylaws in light of any changes to the ELCA model constitution at Churchwide Assembly (CWA) this past summer, alongside any updates to bylaws that will assist the work of the congregation.

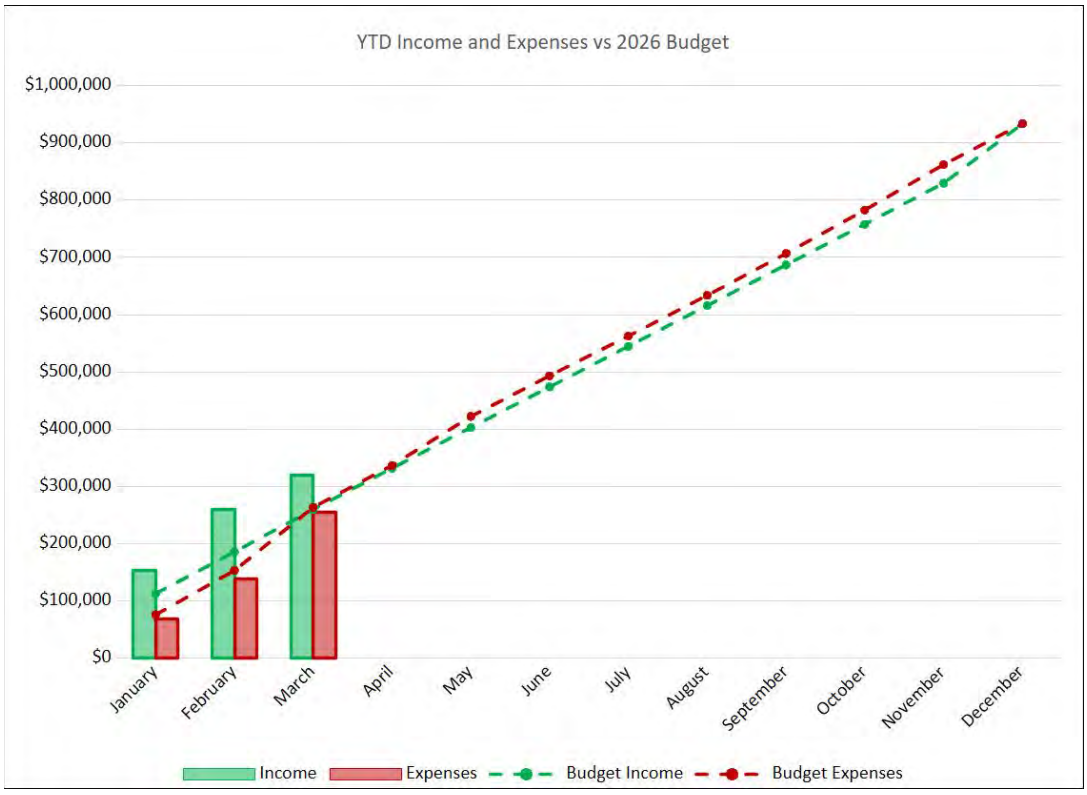
At the June meeting the council is tentatively planning to discuss congregational values and ways to engage these values in the upcoming year. Two primary foci will be on "Equipping in Vocation" and "Acting for Justice and Peace."

The Council received committee reports and updates.

The next council meeting will be over Zoom – May 12, 2026, at 8:15 pm.

2026 Budget Overview and Financial Update

	Annual Budget	March Budget	March Actual
Income	**$933,585**	**$73,077**	**$60,793**
Expenses	$933,585	$130,694	$117,019
Balance	$0	$-57,617	$-56,226



Expenses are tracking with our budget projections and giving through March exceeds budget expectations but most of that is due to a number of pledges paid up front and credited in January. That is a typical pattern for our giving.

Palm Sunday Faith Action: Reclaiming Christianity in the Public Square

On Palm Sunday, March 29th, Christians across denomination, race and place stood up to the rise of authoritarianism, white Christian nationalism, and power of empire, as they affirmed the core of our faith: to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. On the day Christians celebrate as "Palm Sunday", Jesus entered Jerusalem in opposition to the greed, cruelty, and oppression of the Roman Empire on a donkey, a symbol of a just, humble leader who cares for the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the stranger.

The event included a palm procession to the State Capital followeed by worship together as the body of Christ. Worship included music led by local Black Christian churches, powerful preachers and messages about this important day and our role as followers of Christ to lift up and care for our neighbors.

Over 20 members of St. Michael's joined this event to celebrate the power of Love OVER and against the violent powers of empire.

A Church At Work

The Roseville Housing Stability Fund has successfully helped over 260 households so far this year and prevented ANY evictions in Roseville caused by Operation Metro Surge!

Even as families return to work, they are struggling to overcome debt that accumulated during the Surge. Many households are now able to contribute more toward rent and utilities, but are still being assisted with partial payments for rent.

Please know that we appreciate your gifts as well as the trust you place in us to minister to the vulnerable people as them move forward in our community.

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 May *Messenger*?

The *Messenger* submission deadline is Friday, **May 22, 2026**