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Sabbatical Summer

by Pastor Ali Ferin



After announcing plans for my rescheduled sabbatical this summer, I've received many questions and inquiries on how I will spend my time away. Since this is my final newsletter before I embark on my sabbatical, I wanted to share my hopes and plans with you. When I was originally planning my sabbatical for 2021, I had drafted numerous goals to accomplish during my weeks away. After reviewing them this year, I realized how much I had planned... too much! With *sabbath* truly being the heart of my sabbatical, I lightened the expectations I placed on myself and am excited to live into a disciplined rhythm of rest that focuses on wellness for my whole self - spiritually, physically, and relationally.

After reflecting on my years in ministry with you at St. Michael's and the congregations I served before I arrived in 2014, I realized that I have never served a congregation in the community I live in. Like many of you, I drive through numerous zip codes to arrive at St. Michael's. There are benefits of this, but there are also challenges. So I decided to focus my sabbatical time to learn precisely what the title suggests: *how to be here* - in my neighborhood, in my body, in my relationships, and within the narratives of scripture.

The title I gave my sabbatical is "How to be Here." After reflecting on my years in ministry with you at St. Michael's and the congregations I served before I arrived in 2014, I realized that I have never served a congregation in the community I live in. Like many of you, I drive through numerous zip codes to arrive at St. Michael's. There are benefits of this, but there are also challenges. So I decided to focus my sabbatical time to learn precisely what the title suggests: *how to be here* - in my neighborhood, in my body, in my relationships, and within the narratives of scripture.

The scope of my sabbatical is broken down into 5 categories with primary goals in each:

- **How to be in my body**
 - Goal: Develop a regular yoga practice
- **How to be in scripture**
 - Goal: Study scripture (the upcoming lectionary year's Gospel) with intentional dialogue partners
- **How to be in my community**
 - Goal: Serve the neighborhood by volunteering regularly at my local food shelf
- **How to be in my relationships**
 - Goal: Intentional time away with friends and spouse
- **How to be in creation**
 - Goal: Hiking in Utah, Sailing in Apostle Islands with other clergy members

I have thought out the specifics of these goals to lead to positive changes in my wellness and leadership long term. For example, I intentionally chose a yoga studio that has a location in Roseville and White Bear Lake (where I live) so I can more easily continue this practice when I return to work. I trust that by tending to my physical health, maintaining a deep spiritual curiosity, revitalizing relationships with colleagues and family, and a more thoughtful relationship with creation, that my ministry with you will be strengthened.

For those of you who are just learning of my sabbatical plans and have questions about "why" or "how" a sabbatical works, I thought I'd provide the following answers to some common questions: (continued on page 2)

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 other professions, such as 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 is not considered a right for all who labor. Our biblical witness calls for all people to have this 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 receive this gift lightly.

How is a Sabbatical funded?

Many clergy apply for sabbatical grants to allow them to expand their experiences with additional opportunities such as travel. However, due to the pandemic and the stage of life my children are 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, I will use those funds for any sabbatical expenses. The church will budget for additional funds so a supply pastor, Jay Carlson, can support Pastor Brad in preaching and pastoral care. You might remember Pastor Jay from when he provided supply for me while I was on parental leave with my firstborn in 2018, and he is excited to be with you all again this 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 an investment that the congregation makes in itself; when the pastors are energized, healthy, and spiritually rooted, it benefits the entire community. 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.

My sabbatical starts on May 23 and I will return on August 15. While I am away on sabbatical, I will not be checking any emails or phone messages. Because I committed to preaching at Terry Boehlke's memorial service prior to the dates of my sabbatical being set, I will return on Saturday, June 4th, to preach at his service. Otherwise, you will likely not see me or my family during the summer.

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!

Our Summer Pastoral Substitute: Welcoming back Pastor Jay Carlson!



This summer with Pastor Ali on sabbatical, we are delighted to welcome back a familiar face. Pastor Jay Carlson will be returning to St. Michael's and filling in on a part-time basis from June 20-August 15. You can expect to see Jay preaching and presiding in worship this summer, assisting with pastoral care, and being present at community gatherings and events.

Jay was last with us when Ali was on parental leave four years ago. Since that time Jay has served as an interim pastor at Edina Community Lutheran Church; additionally, he and his family have spent the last 2 ½ years in New Zealand where his wife Dr. Kristen Carlson has been on staff at a clinic on the northern island.

It is great to have Jay returning to St. Michael's as they settle back into life in Minnesota.



Worship Streaming Schedule

Which Worship Service is Live-Streamed?

- May 1: **8:45 a.m.**
- May 8: **11:00 a.m.**
- May 15: **8:45 a.m.**
- May 22: **11:00 a.m.**
- May 29: **10:00 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-O1XuelDWgrWE_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.

Life of the Congregation

In Memorial

- ❖ On April 13, Janice Wann passed away; her daughter, Jennifer, was with her at Cardigan Ridge Memory Care . A memorial service will be held at St. Michael's in June. We grieve the death of Janice we give thanks for her life, the care she shared with others, her inquisitiveness, and her tenacity to live life fully and in her own way.
- ❖ A Celebration of Life gathering for Gene Recibe, spouse of Nancy Recibe, was held on April 30 at St. Michael's.
- ❖ A Celebration of Life for Lowell Erdahl, who passed away on December 14, 2021, will be held for on May 7 at 1:00 p.m. at Luther Seminary Chapel. A link to the service will be available on St. Michael's website.
- ❖ A memorial service for Terry Boehlke, who passed away on February 1, 2022, will be held on June 4th at 2:00 p.m. at St. Michael's.

New Member Gatherings

Are you new to St. Michael's and interested in joining this community of faith? Join us at a new member gathering on May 15th from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Room Lunch will be included. Contact Pastor Brad (brad@stmichaelselca.com) to learn more and sign up! We will formally welcome new members in worship on May 22 with a special coffee hour at 10:00 a.m.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

2021-2022

Thank you Brian Thompson!

On April 24th we celebrated Brian's ministry at St. Michael's. After over a decade of service as our Children, Youth, & Family Ministries Associate, Brian is stepping down from his role on staff as he and Lauren prepare to welcome their second child this spring. Brian has been an integral member of our staff, bringing his expertise in Special Education and his wisdom as a long-time member of the church to his leadership role. On Sunday mornings Brian could be found setting up Sunday School activities, playing Pokemon Go with a child, or at the door welcoming families into the church, making them feel at home. Brian's leadership looked like sleeping on church floors on mission trips and driving 15 passenger vans, all while offering random trivia in every state and mile marker along the way. It looked like bonfire skits, silly field games, and late night chats at camp. It looked like creative lesson planning with an eye on accessibility and cultivating curiosity for Sunday School children. It looked like deep connections and care to the high school youth. A lot of Brian's ministry was outside of the public eye, serving on the hiring teams for the CYF Director positions, providing vital support during staff and pastoral transitions, and brainstorming ideas and events for the youth. Brian led with humble service and a sense of humor - **we give thanks to God for the many lives he's impacted, both young and old!**





Holy Week & Holy Hum

Throughout Holy Week, St. Michael's CYF team worked to provide resources for home and create space in worship where the "holy hum" of young ones and young at heart were able to dive deeper into the last days of Jesus' life.

If you were sitting near the Playground during either worship service on Easter morning, the holy hum was MUCH louder than usual and much louder than a "hum". I only say this to be able to reflect as a fellow parent of small ones, that I feel appreciated and seen by this congregation. The joy and honor St. Michael's parishioners demonstrate when "Holy Hum" is a bit louder than a "hum", is such a blessing.

I am thankful for St. Michael's as members greet young ones and families with such grace, practicing expansive welcome and hospitality. I am very proud to be a part of a congregation that has parented with me and my spouse on a Sunday morning and has reminded me to give myself grace as we have young ones in worship.

In Christ,
Natalie Romero



CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY

By purchasing your own
Pocket Prairie

(ask a 7th or 8th grader how they work)
Packets can be purchased outside the
Courtyard Room on

SUNDAY, MAY 8TH

Suggested Donation of \$1 per packet

Proceeds will support Pollinate MN



May 15th!

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for Friday Flock!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

SUNDAY 10 AM | MAY 15TH, 2022

COME CELEBRATE OUR SUNDAY
SCHOOL TEACHERS AND
VOLUNTEERS.

****PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS THE
LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL**

ST. MICHAEL'S CHILDREN'S MINSITRY

FRIDAY FLOCK

3-4 YEAR OLDS & KINDERGARTEN- 5TH GRADE

6pm-8pm

DINNER PROVIDED
GAMES
CRAFTS
SERVICE PROJECTS

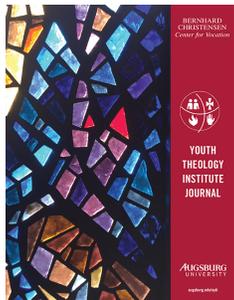
SAVE THE DATES:
JUNE 24TH
JULY 22ND
AUGUST 26TH

SIGN UPS AND
DETAILS WILL BE
PROVIDED IN THE
CYF EMAILS AND
SOCIAL MEDIA
PLATFORMS

Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics

Academy 2022: Our Beautiful Brain: Neuroscience, Mental Health, and Resilience: June 18-24

For high school students, this is an opportunity for faith formation, vocational discernment, collaborative inquiry, and academic development. The focal questions of this theme are: How do we learn resilience when life gets tough? Can our faith and spirituality help us in overcoming adversity? Students who participate in the Gustavus Academy and proceed to attend Gustavus Adolphus College will receive a \$500 annually renewable tuition scholarship. Visit gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy for more information.



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

Summer 2022: Live the Truth

July 17 – 22

The Naming Project Summer Camp is for 13-18 year-olds who are of any sexual orientation or gender identity or expression who are interested in discussing and understanding sexuality and gender in terms of their own spiritual journey

This camp takes place at Bay Lake Camp in Deerwood, MN.

For more information and to sign up you can visit their website: www.thenamingproject.org.



BeLoved Teen Group

An affirming space for LGBTQIA+ youth to be seen, known, and loved by God and by others. Located at Grace Lutheran Church 1500 6th St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Summer Events

May 22, 4:30-6:00 p.m.: Afternoon of crafts
Make a button with you name and pronouns!

June 25: Join us at Pride!
Sign up online to meet at Grace Lutheran at 10:00 a.m. to ride together
or meet us at Queer Grace Community Booth at 11:00 a.m..
Experience pride together with us.

July: Afternoon of Games!
Starting in the Fall: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month. Dinner provided.

Confirmation News

Confirmation Updates

May 18th is the last confirmation class of the program year! Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. for an end of year celebration!

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 to fill out the volunteer submission form. Contact Pastor Ali with any questions

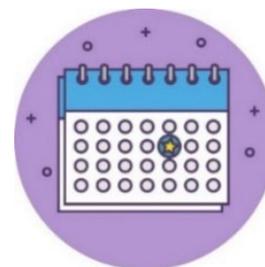




Social Ministry Activities

Social Ministry Calendar

May 1 – 29:	Rezek House Shower
May 11 & 25:	Quilting and Bandage Rolling 9:00 a.m. <i>Courtyard Room</i>
May 10:	Keystone Mobile Food Distribution 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. <i>in Circle drive</i>
May 15:	Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission 10:00 a.m. <i>Serving Area & Kitchen</i>
May – June:	Habitat for Humanity Build
TBD:	Rezek House Yard Clean Up
Daily:	Panera Bread Ministry: Evening pick up at Rosedale Panera, Morning Bagging in Kitchen



In the Community

Help make Roseville bloom! Volunteer to plant flowers along Lexington Avenue at the main entrance to Central Park. A great outdoor activity for all ages! Saturday, May, 21; Sign up for a shift, either 9:00-10:30 or 10:30-noon. Contact Rachel Boggs, Volunteer Coordinator at 651-792-7028 or rachel.boggs@cityofroseville.com

Rezek House Shower

May 1 through May 29

Did you know that St. Michael's partners with a youth homeless shelter in St. Paul? Rezek House is home to youth ages 16-21 who live in apartment-style housing while they complete schooling or search for work. This spring we will be collecting items that the youth need for their apartments at Rezek House.

To participate in the Rezek House shower...

Choose a tag from the Social Ministry Board for tags listing an item, purchase the item, and deposit the item in the church collection box, located near the sanctuary. Thanks for your support!

These are some of the **Most Needed** items:

All purpose cleaners

409/degreaser for stoves and counters

Sponges and scrub pads

Tub and Tile cleaner

Fabuloso or other multipurpose floor cleaner product

Mops and brooms

Swifter and wet/dry mops

Hand soaps and lotions

Toilet tissue and paper towels

Refugee Resettlement Update

Our refugee family has expanded!

Like other Afghan refugee families who immigrated to the US a few months ago, our family of Jamiullah, Guldosta, and baby Shkula have recently welcomed members of their extended family to our country.

Within the past couple months, Jamiullah's cousin Hazrat and his wife Salma have arrived in the Twin Cities along with Guldosta's uncle Hayat, his wife Razmina, and their four young boys. In addition, Hazrat's wife Salma is expecting their first child in June.

These two additional families have apartments in the same St. Paul building where Jamiullah and Guldosta live. Obviously, there's great benefit in these families being together as they navigate life in a new part of the world.

The Minnesota Council of Churches sponsors all three families. But there's one big difference. Unlike Jamiullah and Guldosta, who have the benefit of St. Michael's as their co-sponsor, the other families have not been assigned a co-sponsor. That leaves them on their own to figure out many of the complexities of day-to-day life in this new place.

Seeing that, the St. Michael's Refugee Sponsorship Committee recently approached Pastors Brad and Ali proposing that we work with the two extended families, not as an official co-sponsor, but in a more informal way—as friends. Their

answer was, “Yes, of course.” We know that we can’t provide everything these families need, but to date we have been able to help with transportation needs, have assisted them on obtaining household goods, and have provided toys and books for the four young boys—three of whom are preschoolers and one who is in primary school.

We are pleased that all six adults are taking English classes and are hopeful that they can support one another in learning.

Stay tuned for updates on these new arrivals, their progress, and information about how you might be able to help. We will be announcing a small appeal to gather items for Salma’s baby due this summer, are determining how we might assist the adults in job search, and will work on other projects as the needs arise.

Guatemala Partnership



The first time I visited Cuernavaca, Mexico, was 1996, before Google translate or portable translators, and I had to look up each word I did not understand in a little dictionary I carried with me.

While touring the cathedral, I found this verse etched into the stone wall:

Nadie ha visto nunca a dios pero si nos amemos dios permanece entre nosotros.

I had to look up the word *permanece*: to remain, to stay. That made the verse read like this:

No one has seen God, but if we love one another, God remains among us.

That is not the modern translation of John 1:4, which reads:

No one has seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

I was so struck by the verse that I took a picture and framed it. It still sits on my bedside table where it reminds me daily that loving one another brings God among us. This is true whether we live in Roseville, North Minneapolis, Afghanistan, Ukraine, or Guatemala.

The other thing that struck me about the verse was the use of the word *permanece* (permanecer: to remain). The English word permanence is related in origin to the Spanish word *permanecer*. In this season of Easter, it is good to remember that God’s love is permanent, and that it *permanece* (remains) among us.

The people in Cimiento have been our partners for 13 years. Our partnership has *permanecido* (stayed, remained).



During that time, our partners in Cimiento have built a temporary church structure (which they were forced to move) and put up another. Now, they would like to build a permanent church structure, one that will permanence and demonstrate to the people of Cimiento that their faith, their church will also *permanecer*.

We are with them in this endeavor, and will remain with them as they, and we, watch their permanent structure take shape, and *Dios permanece entre nosotros*.

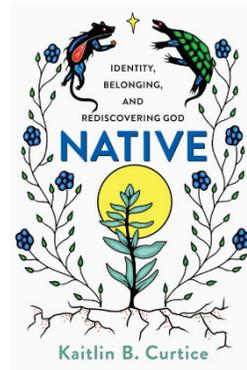
Sandy Eliason



Study & Fellowship Opportunities

Women's Summer Patio Series

Summer is almost here, which means it is time to start planning for the Summer Patio Series! Join the St. Michael's women for this time for connection under the summer sun. Small groups will include virtual and in-person options. This year we will have a kick off party at Jone Tiffany's home in Blaine on June 5th at 6:00 p.m. **Small group sign up is already available!** Learn more and sign up today: <https://www.stmichaelselca.com/patioseries.html>



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.**

May 24, 2022 *Redhead By the Side of the Road* by Anne Tyler

Dramatizes the absurdities of flawed perception and the risks of rigidity.

Men's Bible and Brew

Thursday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Courtyard Room/ Courtyard

In May we will be gathering in a spirit of Pentecost—and where the Spirit may be leading us individually and communally.

Where are places we have felt pushed outside of our comfort zone?
Where are the times/places we have experienced new possibility?
How has God and the gift of community accompanied us in these times?

Bring a favorite beverage and snack and join the conversation and the fun.



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: **May 3, 9:30 a.m.** in the Courtyard Room.

Elisabeth Circle: **May 4, 1:00 p.m.** in the Courtyard Room.

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.

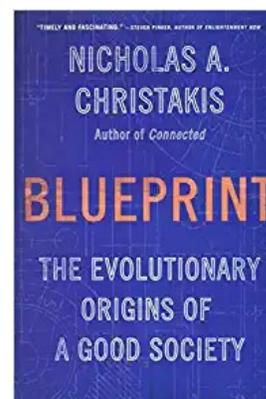
This year as we continue to adjust to COVID-19 we will be gathering in the Courtyard Room at St. Michael's. Tables and chairs will be set up, bring your own lunch or snack. Come in door #4 (by the main office).

Month 9: *Blueprint: The Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society*

Chapter 11: Genes and Culture, Chapter 12: Natural and Social Laws

Group 1: Wednesday, May 4

Group 2: Wednesday, May 18





Yoga Devotion’s next 8 week session runs Mondays, May 2 – June 20. Classes are 6:30 p.m. Beginners are always welcome! Cost is \$72. 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-4/2022-05-02/>

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.

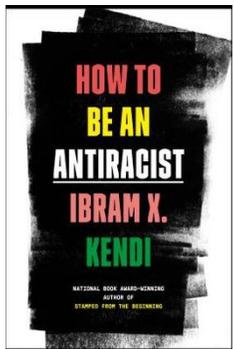
The group is facilitated by Laurie Krachmer, a member of St Michael’s who has been engaged in diversity and inclusion work for the past 7 years and is a trained facilitator.

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

May 22 *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X Kendi

Instructions for May 22 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 *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X Kendi
- Questions we might discuss:
 - What are your reactions to the definitions, especially in the first two chapters?
 - How has your understanding of/response to these definitions changed in the past year?
 - What most surprised you?
 - What connections did you make to our previous materials and/or discussions?
 - Which, if any, of the steps listed in Chapter 18 are steps you can or will take?
 - What do you want to learn more about after reading this book?
 -

Community Life Events: Summer planning

After the last two years of COVID-19 the Community Life Committee is ramping back up and looking at congregational events. As you prepare for summer, please make note of the following events and watch the Friday eblast, June newsletter, and church bulletin board for more information.

- **Saints Baseball Game:** In July we are planning a congregational outing to a Saint Paul Saints Baseball Game. This will include tickets to a game, a picnic in the picnic area behind the outfield, and opportunities to connect with others from the congregation. Date and costs will be posted soon. Thanks to Rich and Kathy Callinan for coordinating this again this year!
- **An Evening Out:** In place of the Progressive Dinner, we are planning to host “An Evening Out” at St. Michael’s this summer. People will be invited to bring heavy hors d’ oeuvres to share, and we will have wine, soda, cocktails, and mocktails...as well as the signature Café Latte desserts. The committee is working to finalize a date for the event, but anticipate it will take place in mid-August.



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.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

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

We continue 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.

May 5	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Peter raises Tabitha/Dorcas from the dead The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. A white-robed multitude sings before the Lamb Jesus promises eternal life to his sheep
May 12	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	Peter's vision: God gives the Gentiles repentance and life The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. New heaven, new earth: springs of living water Jesus gives a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you
May 19	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5 John 14:23-29 John 5:1-9 (alt)	Lydia and her household are baptized by Paul Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. The Lamb is the light of the city of God The Father will send the Holy Spirit Jesus heals on the Sabbath

Music @ St. Michael's

St. Michael's Singers, Adult Choir

Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Courtyard Room	May 1, 8:45a.m. May 8, 11:00 a.m. May 15, 8:45 a.m. May 22, 11:00 a.m.

The Chapel Ringers, Adult Bells

Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. Balcony	May 22, both services

Youth Choirs

Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
Wednesdays. Children's Choir Room Celebration Singers (grades 1-4): 6:30-7:00 p.m. Spirit Choir (grades 5-9): 7:30-8:00 p.m.	May 8, 8:45 a.m. May 15, both services

Youth Bells

Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. Balcony	May 1, both services



Children's Music News

The school year may be coming to an end, but we are already looking ahead to the fall. Have you or your children wondered what it's like to sing in choir or ring handbells? Now is your chance to come rehearse with us and see what we do every week.

Students entering grades 1-8 for the 2022-2023 school year are invited to join us at our last two rehearsals of the school year.

Wednesday, May 4 and 11

Youth Bells (grades 5-8*)

5:30-6:00 p.m. (Choir Loft)

*Students in 3rd and 4th grades with music reading experience are welcome to ring.

Celebration Singers (grades 1-4)

6:30-7:00 p.m. (Children's Choir Room)

Spirit Choir (grades 5-8)

7:30-8:00 p.m. (Children's Choir Room)



Unable to attend? No problem! All students in grades 1-8 are invited to come sing and/or ring in the fall. Watch the Friday Flyer and Messenger for information on rehearsals beginning in September.

Questions? Please contact Cory Bock, Director of Children's Music (cory@stmichaelselca.com).

Can You Help?

Holy Hammers/Habitat for Humanity project is underway.

You can still help.

The Holy Hammers coalition of churches and Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity projects started April 25 and continue through July 15. Thanks to all those who already signed up to work on the construction crew or to serve lunch, coffee, and snacks to the crews. There is still a need for additional construction help on some of the days and we could use some more volunteers to prepare and serve lunch on **June 27** and to provide coffee and donuts or other snacks to the crews at the 10 am break the week of **May 9-13**. Both sites are in St. Paul, the first four weeks at 1297 Woodbridge and the second at 564 State St.

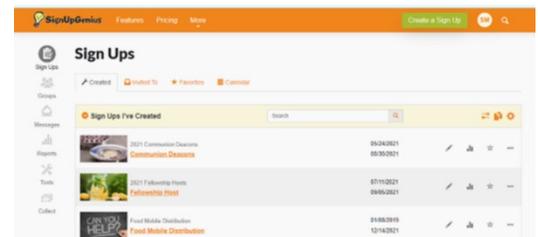
If you are interested in volunteering for either construction or providing food or coffee, please contact Dave Yarusso and he will send you the necessary information and registration links.

More Ways to Serve

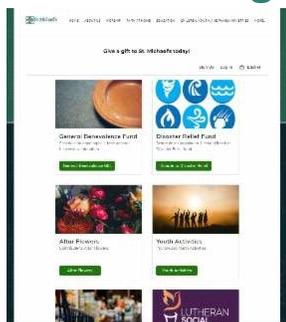
Worship Leaders and Volunteers Needed

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, Communion Deacons, Communion Bread & Altar Prep, 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 and click on the Volunteer Sign-up icon



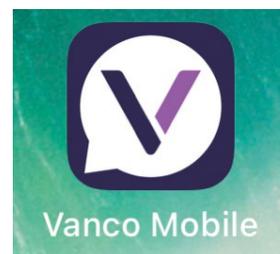
Online Giving



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



search for "St. Michael's Lutheran Church".

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

A Church at Work

Church Council Corner

The St. Michael's Church Council met on Tuesday, April 12. While there were few action items, there are a number of significant updates. We want to keep the congregation up-to-date on where various items stand.

- St. Michael's Loan for the Sanctuary Wall project and affiliated projects has been approved by Thrivent Financial. The loan will close by the end of April and funds will be ready for the project to begin in May.
- LHB, the architectural firm designing and requesting bids for the Sanctuary Wall project, has met twice over the last month with members of the Property Committee. LHB will have the bid documents ready for release the week of April 25 with a three week turn around. The goal is to have the project getting off the ground in mid-May.
- A team from the congregation comprised of Al Barkve, George Beebe, Peter Breuch, Jessica Etten, Emily Strand, and Pastors Ali and Brad, have been interviewing Feasibility and Capital Campaign firms. The goal is to select a firm to lead the congregation in a feasibility study and in considering special projects and fundraising. This was born out of the congregational conversation at the annual meeting in January as we think about next steps and possible future projects. (See update provided by Mary Nosek below.)
- Personnel & Administration received information about Pastor Ali's sabbatical. The committee is also dreaming with the pastors around goals and ministry planning for the next five years.
- The Congregation has been part of "test-driving" the liturgy *Sighs too Deep for Words* and is now receiving feedback.

The next church council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 5:45 p.m.

Feasibility and Capital Campaign Update

The St. Michael's Church Council has promised the congregation frequent communication on progress in repairing the sanctuary walls and in planning for an expansion of the existing narthex. Here's an update.

Some background: A little more than three years ago the Church Council began thinking about upgrades to enhance our building, including:

- An expanded narthex with a welcome center and space to gather on Sundays and throughout the week.
- A nursery space that is accessible and closer to the sanctuary
- Upgraded restrooms accessible to everyone near the sanctuary

However, plans were put on hold due to the COVID Pandemic and the fact that a repair to the sanctuary walls, damaged by years of leakage, presented a more urgent need. This past fall the Property Committee, Executive Committee, the Church Council, and an architecture firm, created a plan to address both the sanctuary exterior and interior walls repair and to provide design ideas and cost estimates for the narthex redesign and additions.

At the Annual Meeting in January, the congregation approved moving forward with the sanctuary wall repair and the potential addition of air conditioning to the sanctuary. That work will be funded by an initial payment from the St. Michael's Reserve Fund, and adding to and refinancing the current mortgage. At the same meeting, the congregation recommended that the Council conduct a feasibility study before committing to the expansion plan for the narthex and nursery.

What's happening now: We are now beginning work on that feasibility study of a capital campaign to fund narthex improvements.

- One idea that has been introduced is to tie the capital campaign to the church's 70th anniversary celebration in 2023.
- A capital campaign of from \$1.75 million to \$3 million is under consideration.
- Possible items to be funded are the narthex redesign, repaying the loan for the sanctuary repair (which would reduce our annual budget by approximately \$50,000 a year), a benevolence/outreach focus, and more.

During the week of March 28, a feasibility study team of Al Barkve, Emily Strand, George Beebe, Jessica Etten, Peter Breuch, Pastor Ali Ferin, and Pastor Brad Froslee interviewed four firms that manage capital campaigns.

They are:

- Kairos & Associates: Elise Brown, Kristin Wiersma, Jana Swenson
- GSB: Mike Ward
- Olson Advancement: Steve Olson
- Walsh and Associates: Michelle Sandquist

Following those interviews, the team will review the presentations and contact one or two of the firms for more information, references, and potentially a formal proposal.

Watch future editions of the *Friday Flyer*, the *Messenger*, and the St. Michael's website for more updates on this process. Contact a member of the feasibility study team or one of the pastors if you have questions.

2022 Budget Overview and Financial Update

	March Actual	March Budget	YTD Actual	Annual Budget
Income	\$66,769	\$64,863	\$277,122	\$874,359*
Expenses	\$80,597	\$89,814	\$240,271	\$874,359
Net Balance	\$-13,827	\$-24,952	\$36,852	\$0

*At the Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022, the congregation approved use of Reserve Funds (the 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)

The St. Michael's Assessment & Reopening Team (SMART) continues to appreciate the commitment this congregation has put in over the last two years in striving to be safe and healthy, while also recognizing the challenges of COVID-19 protocols locally, state-wide, and nationally—and the shifts and changes made as more knowledge and information has been gained.

The team continues to monitor the rise in COVID-19 infections locally. We are mindful of the uptick in cases in Ramsey county and in Minnesota (while noting that numbers are still significantly lower than in January with the omicron-variant surge, etc.).

At this point we are continuing at St. Michael's with masks being **optional**, but **encourage people to wear face masks** as an extra measure of precaution. We also ask that people adjust (or readjust) to create more physical distance in group settings (3'-6' if possible).

Additionally, we ask everyone to be mindful of the symptoms of COVID-19. **Should you have symptom** we ask the following:

1. Get tested (because of the rise in cases we cannot disregard symptoms and simply say "It's just a cold." or "It's just allergies.")
2. If you are exhibiting symptoms please refrain from coming to worship and church activities until you have had a COVID-19 test
3. Even with a negative at home test it is possible to have a false-negative, and we would ask anyone who is experiencing symptoms—even with a negative test—to follow safety protocols and wear a mask for additional protection in the context of the community.

We know that masks are not a perfect solution; we recognize that at-home COVID-19 tests are not perfect, and we know that many of us are exhausted by the various changes and protocols over the last two years.

But we continue to strive to be mindful of others and take health and safety seriously. Ideally, if we carry out these simple tasks we will help to keep things moving forward in a caring and safe manner.



Current COVID-19 Protocols:

- Mask optional
 - The team encourages all who feel comfortable wearing masks to continue to wear them.
 - The church will continue to provide KN95/N95 masks to use for those who would like them.
 - This is be consistent across all ages and spaces.
- Continuous Communion in worship
 - We will come forward in a line (we ask that people maintain a 3' distance between those in front of and behind them), receiving bread and wine/juice in small cups.
- Return of the Children's PrayGround in worship
 - The children's PrayGround will be set up again at the back of the sanctuary.
 - The church will provide masks for any children/families who would like them and do not have their own.
- Light funeral/memorial refreshments, food at community gatherings
 - We will resume refreshments for gatherings at the church.
 - Coffee hours between services will be dependent on congregational volunteers.

Thanks, again, for your work in keeping our community healthy. And blessings to all this Easter season! *Sandra Eliason, Deb Legan, Sarah Osterman, Dennis Skovsted, Hal Tiffany, Jone Tiffany, Karen Wilkerson, and Pastor Brad Froslee*

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 then empowered by the Holy Spirit to live and work together for God's promised day of justice, peace, and mercy.

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.

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*

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. Just let the church office know your preference.

Got something for the June *Messenger*?

The *Messenger* submission deadline is Friday, May 20, 2022.



The Messenger



St Michael's

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