St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Messenger

October 2026

What's Inside?

Worship & Education
Page 2 - 5
- Worship Schedules
  - Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
  - Wednesdays at 6:10 p.m.
- Community meals
  - Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.
- Religion in Life speakers

Life of the Congregation
Page 5 & 6
- Congregation Life Updates
- Pastor Brad's Letter
- Deacon Update

Children, Youth & Family
Page 7 - 9
- Children & Youth Event Schedule
- Update from Natalie
- MEA Break
- Bonfire & Spuds, October 23
- Trunk or Treat, October 25
- Confirmation Updates

Music News
Page 10
- Children & Youth Music
- Chapel Ringers, Handbell Choir
- Band of Angels
- St. Michael's Singers, Adult Choir

Social Ministry
Page 11 - 13
- Social Ministry Calendar
  - Rezek Meal, Sandwich Making, Keystone Food Mobile, Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Loaves & Fishes, Panera Bread Rescue, Every Meal
- Winter Wear Drive
- Brimhall Reading Program
- Guatemala Partnership Updates

Education & Fellowship
Page 13 - 16
- Wednesday Evening Faith Discussions
- Thursday Morning Bible Study
- Faith in Daily Life
- Esther Circle
- Women's Buffet
- Desserters II Book Club
- Men's Bible & Brew
- Learn Mah Jongg.
- Yoga Devotion

A Church at Work
Page 16 & 18
- Stewardship 2027
- Church Council
- Property Committee
- Budget Overview & Financial Update

Worship & Education Schedule

Program Year Schedule

Sunday Mornings

Children's Music at 8:40 a.m.
Sunday School & Youth Group at 9:10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.
Religion in Life 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.
Adult Choir at 7:00 p.m.
Faith Discussions at 7:00 p.m.

October Worship Schedule

Sunday, October 4

- Blessing of the Animals
- 10:00 a.m. Worship outside

Wednesday, October 7

- 5:00 p.m. Community Meal in the Fellowship Hall
- 6:10 p.m. Evening Prayer in the Courtyard Room

Sunday, October 11

- 9:10 a.m. Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
  - Live Streamed & Recorded
  - ASL Interpreted

Wednesday, October 14

- 5:00 p.m. Community Meal in the Fellowship Hall
- 6:10 p.m. Evening Prayer in the Courtyard Room

Sunday, October 18

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

Wednesday, October 21

- 5:00 p.m. Community Meal in the Fellowship Hall
- 6:10 p.m. Evening Prayer in the Courtyard Room

Sunday, October 25

- Reformation & Confirmation Sunday
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
  - Live Streamed & Recorded
  - ASL Interpreted

Wednesday, October 28

- 5:00 p.m. Community Meal in the Fellowship Hall
- 6:10 p.m. Evening Prayer in the Courtyard Room

All are welcome!

OCTOBER MEALS

Free-will donations appreciated.

Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 7

- Kirkland Lasagna
  - GF available
- Caesar Salad
  - GF
- Poke Cake with whipped topping
  - GF available

OCTOBER 14

- Taco Night! with toppings
  - GF & DF available
- Bean & Corn salad
  - GF, DF
- Tres Leches cake
  - GF available

OCTOBER 21

- Chicken Noodle Soup
  - DF, GF available
- Cape Cod chopped salad
  - GF
- Yellow cake with chocolate frosting
  - GF available

OCTOBER 28

- BBQ Pork Ribs
  - GF available
- Cole Slaw
- Orzo & Wild Rice salad
- Cookies
  - GF available

Options available each week:
- Hot Dog with Bun
- Fixings for Sunflower Butter & Strawberry Jam Sandwich

Options available as indicated:
- Vegetarian (V)
- Dairy-free (DF)
- Gluten-free (GF)

For questions or to volunteer, contact:
- Lornell Brand (651) 415-9664

Live-Streamed Services

Each Sunday, our service will be live-streamed. Subscribe to the St. Michael's YouTube Channel to watch worship live on Sunday mornings if you are not able to come in person.

Watch your Friday Flyer for a copy of the Bulletin to download and follow along, as well as the link to the live service. Streamed services will also be recorded and posted on Sunday evening on our website https://www.stmichaelselca.com/ for viewing at your convenience Scan the QR Code to go to the St. Michael's Channel.

Worship Volunteers Always Welcome!

Volunteers are needed to serve as ushers, lectors, communion deacons, and fellowship hosts. These are great opportunities for folks of all ages - families are encouraged to sign up together! We are also looking for Altar Prep / Cleanup volunteers. Training will be provided and schedules are flexible.

Scan the QR Code or head to www.stmichaelselca.com and click "Volunteer" to access signups.

Flower Donations

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

Religion in Life

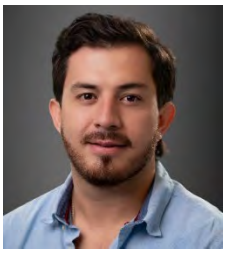
Sundays, 11:10 a.m.
Join Religion in Life (St. Michael's adult education forum) this month. This is a great opportunity to engage in learning about and discussing a variety of topics—from Bible and theology, to Community Life and Justice Issues, to Health, Wellness, Spirituality, and Art.

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.

Pick up your fall 2026 Religion in Life booklet to view the whole schedule.

October

Sunday, October 4 *SEED & Nutrition: A Guatemala Project Reaping the Benefits*
Diego Gil & Joan Felice



Over the last ten years an initiative was launched through the Lutheran Church in Guatemala to assist communities in growing crops that would provide sustainable nutritious food, minimize depletion of soils and resources, and provide families and villages with sources of income. Diego Gil has been instrumental in leading this work with staff and villagers and St. Michael's own Joan Felice a retired professor of Biology with a focus on food and nutrition has served as resource and consultant.

In Religion in Life Diego and Joan will share the work and success of this program as it has transformed lives and opportunities for villages. Diego will be able to share much of the human and leadership perspective as Joan speaks to the impact on nutrition and health.

We are delighted to welcome Diego Gil, who has recently been called to serve as the ELCA Director for Mission in Mexico and Central America; and are so glad to honor the work of Joan Felice, a member here at St. Michael's.

Sunday, October 11 *AI Beyond the Jargon: Everyday Uses and Big Questions*
Colin McFadden

The rapid arrival of powerful new artificial intelligence tools is raising big questions about many aspects of our lives. There are questions about the future of our jobs, our relationships, and even our shared sense of reality. Because AI is increasingly touching so many parts of our lives, it's important that we all claim our space in the conversation. In this presentation, we'll review the AI landscape, discuss some ways you can explore this technology (if you're so inclined) and dig into some of the bigger questions about how we can navigate this complex moment and support our friends and loved ones.

Colin McFadden is a Technology Architect in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota, where he partners with faculty and staff to design technology that meaningfully supports research, teaching, and learning. His work emphasizes data stewardship, advanced imaging, and the responsible use of emerging technologies—including AI—in ways that align with academic values and long-term institutional impact.

Sunday, October 18 *Places to Call Home: the Work and Ministry of Beacon Interfaith Collaborative*
***Anna* Stamborski**

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is a Minnesota housing nonprofit committed to housing justice, with shared values guiding their work every step of the way. With a vision that every Minnesotan has a place to call home, Beacon is working to make sure there is enough housing (and affordable housing), that people in stable homes are able to continue to live in and maintain their homes, and that housing policies at the local and state levels continue to support homes for all Minnesotans. This Sunday we have an opportunity to hear the incredible work that is being done by this one organization.

As Senior Organizer, Anna is responsible for driving engagement from Beacon's collaborative of congregations, working to develop congregational teams and leaders, innovate organizing tactics, and pursue dynamic congregational engagement at Beacon's supportive housing sites.

Anna brings nearly a decade of experience as an organizer, educator, and researcher working at the intersection of faith communities, racial justice, and institutional change. With organizing experience deeply rooted in faith communities, Anna is fluent in the language, values, and internal dynamics of congregational life, and is skilled at translating complex social and policy issues into compelling, values-based narratives that invite action.

Sunday, October 25 *Celebration of Confirmation Students & Reformation*

Recognizing that this Sunday is our Reformation worship service with the Rite of Confirmation, we will take time to celebrate with our confirmation students and their families. Join other members of St. Michael's in the courtyard room (and courtyard, weather permitting) for special treats.

Life of the Congregation

Office Hours this October

Pastor Brad, Lisa Koland, and Natalie Romero will be in Guatemala visiting our ministry partners Oct 9-17. Office hours during this time may fluctuate. Please call before dropping by the office to make sure someone is available to assist you. If the doors are locked, use the doorbell on door 4. Thank you for your patience!

Memorial Service for Joanne Meyer

The memorial service for Joanne Meyer will take place on Sunday, November 1. There will be a visitation with light refreshments from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. with the memorial service at 2:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

All Saints – Honoring the Saints

Sunday Nov. 1 is All Saints, a day where we remember the saints in our lives to guide us and inspire us in faith. It is our tradition in this worship service to honor the new saints among us, those newly baptized within the congregation that year, and the saints who have gone onto the church triumphant this year by the ringing of a bell for the name of each departed member.

We will also have the opportunity for you to remember and honor a loved one this saints day. During the month of October, there will be ribbons and fabric pens in the narthex area. You can write the name of a saint you'd like to honor on the ribbon and place them in the nearby basket. Those ribbons will be used to attach bells which will be used during the processional in worship to remember our ancestors in faith who are a part of the great cloud of witnesses.

Pastor's Letter

Welcome October!

Recently I was playing a trivia game and a question popped up asking, "Which inventor made money printing indulgence cards for the Roman Catholic Church?" There were four possibilities, one of which was Johannes Gutenberg. I was thrown for a second—I associate the Gutenberg printing press with the Reformation. His ingenuity and invention, I had learned in history classes, had fueled the Protestant Reformation with its ability to print theological tracts and Bibles that were written in common languages that could be read among the people. Yet, through this trivia game I learned that the printing press which led to the information revolution and spurred the Reformation could be used in multiple ways—many I am grateful for, others I find more problematic.

Around the same time, I saw an advertisement from the University of Notre Dame. The university is seeking applicants for fellowships to explore *Faith and Artificial Intelligence (AI)* advancing a faith-based ethical framework to address the powerful AI that is coming into being and grounding this work in enduring Christian values of dignity, embodiment, love, transcendence, and agency. Additionally, they are seeking fellows who will explore *Love Ethics* looking at how love and relationships intersect with ethics and are applied to real-world contexts or broader social, cultural or political questions.

In watching the news or scrolling online you see that business leaders, politicians, Silicon Valley inventors, community and faith leaders (even the pope) have expressed real concerns about AI and what is being unleashed in the world. On the one hand there are ways that AI can be used for incredible good; on the other hand there are significant concerns and ways for it to do harm. Likewise, we continue to look at ways that the ethics of love and relationships invites us into conversation—there is so much positive in allowing women more agency, recognizing people who are lgbtqia+, creating a culture of consent and healthy boundaries; and there are questions.

We are standing in a time of never-before-imagined knowledge and change. There are opportunities for life, connection, possibility; there are also challenges before us can lead to harm and destruction—destruction of individuals, relationships, communities, and even the world. In the midst of this we are called to conversation, discernment, and stepping out in faith.

The month of October with the Feast of St. Francis and its focus on care for creation, creatures, and those who often go overlooked, as well as the celebration of Reformation (and at St. Michael's the affirmation of faith by our 10th grade confirmation students), call us deeper into what it means to "do life together," what it means to "put our faith to work in the world," and what it means to boldly proclaim God's redeeming grace to the world.

This month challenges us not to stick our heads in the sand, but to faithfully take the gifts, the skills and, yes, even the technologies before us and follow the One who makes new life know here and beyond any death-dealing powers of the world.

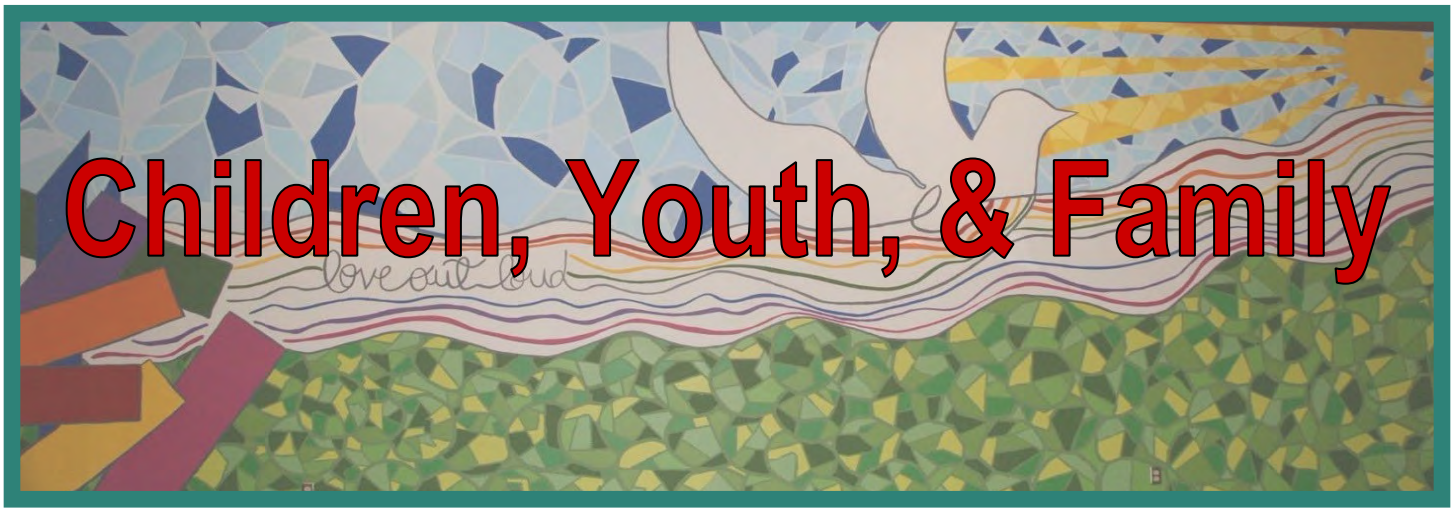
We are then set free to live, dream, and work for the good of all. We step out in faith, for we can do no other!

Blessings,
Pastor Brad

Deacon Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in Religion in Life on September 20 as we consider diaconal ministry at St. Michaels with Natalie Romero completing her candidacy work with the ELCA to become a deacon. A recording of this session is available at https://www.stmichaelselca.com/online-religion-in-life

Handouts from the presentation are available in the office. If you have questions about this process please contact Ginger Fairchild, Council President or Pastor Ali Ferin.



Children & Youth Events

Sunday, October 4

- 1pm-3pm—10th Grade Confirmation Capstone

Wednesday, October 14

- No Confirmation Class--MEA

Sunday, October 18

- No Children & Youth Activities-- MEA

Friday, October 23

- 6pm-8pm—6th-12th Grade Bonfire Event

Sunday, October 25

- 10am-10th Grade Confirmation in worship
- 3pm-4pm—Trunk or Treat

Faith in Relationship

As we've started a new program year at St. Michael's with CYF volunteer training, welcoming students of all ages back to Sunday School, Confirmation classes, and getting ready for another year of growing together, I've been thinking a lot about what makes ministry with children, youth, and families so meaningful.

It's the relationships.

Relationships with safe, faith-filled adults can shape our young people in ways we may never fully see. But one of the beautiful things about these relationships is that the impact goes both ways. The adults are shaped, too.

Four years ago, Aleksi served as an adult chaperone on a service trip to Toledo, Ohio, where Eli was a high school student. Over the course of that week, they worked alongside each other in service and grew in their faith. What began as a week of shared experiences became a relationship that continued long after the trip was over.

This summer, Eli had the opportunity to shadow Aleksi as he continues his Physical Therapy program at Carroll University. The relationship that began between a youth and an adult chaperone has grown into something deeper: mentorship, encouragement, and a meaningful example of what it looks like to walk alongside one another.

Stories like this are at the heart of why we invest in children, youth, and families. Faith is caught as much as it is taught. When adults say "yes" to showing up, serving, listening, and building relationships with young people, something beautiful happens. Young people discover trusted adults who believe in them, and adults are reminded again and again of the ways God is at work through the questions, curiosity, gifts, and faith of the next generation.

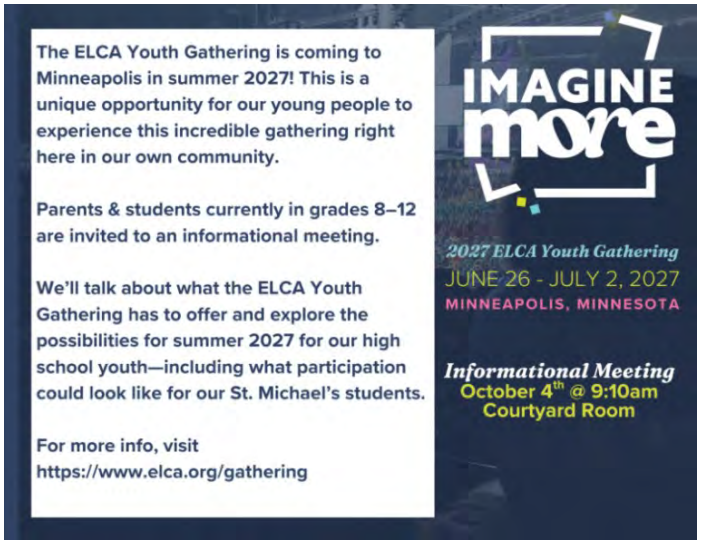
Thank you to every volunteer, mentor, parent, and adult who says yes to being part of these relationships. You may never know where that "yes" will lead, or how far it will reach.

Natalie Romero

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

BONFIRE & SPUDS
OCTOBER 23RD
6PM-8PM
Open to all 6th-12th graders
Bring your favorite form of potato to share.
Sign up using the QR Code Below
Friends are welcome!
WE WILL HAVE A BONFIRE, HOT DOGS & GAMES!
IF NEEDING, BRING FIXINGS TOO!
SIGN UP DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 18TH

REMINDER
October 18th
MEA weekend
there will be no:
Children & Youth Music
Sunday School
Youth Group


The ELCA Youth Gathering is coming to Minneapolis in summer 2027! This is a unique opportunity for our young people to experience this incredible gathering right here in our own community.
Parents & students currently in grades 8–12 are invited to an informational meeting.
We'll talk about what the ELCA Youth Gathering has to offer and explore the possibilities for summer 2027 for our high school youth—including what participation could look like for our St. Michael's students.
For more info, visit https://www.elca.org/gathering
IMAGINE more
2027 ELCA Youth Gathering
JUNE 26 - JULY 2, 2027
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
Informational Meeting
October 4th @ 9:10am
Courtyard Room

SAVE THE DATE!
TRUNK OR TREAT
OCTOBER 25TH AT 3PM
AT ST. MICHAEL'S PARKING LOT
SIGN UP WITH THE QR CODE TO DECORATE YOUR TRUNK & HAND OUT CANDY !
PRIZES FOR BEST DECORATED TRUNK!
CARS ARRIVE AT 2:30PM; EVENT STARTS AT 3PM
FREE EVENT
CANDY

Confirmation News

October 7 Class @ 7pm in the Fellowship Hall
October 14 NO CLASS
October 21 Class @ 7pm in the Fellowship Hall
October 28 Class @ 7pm in the Fellowship Hall
November 4 Class @ 7pm in the Fellowship Hall
November 5 Confirmation Retreat Parent Meeting – 6:00 p.m. (Location TBD)
November 8 Confirmation Retreat Parent Meeting – 6:00 p.m. (Location TBD)
This is for students in 7th -8th grade

If your child misses a confirmation class, make sure they fill out a worship notes form the next time they are in worship! Worship notes are available in the Narthex near the confirmation pictures.

Wednesday Night Schedule

Community Meal 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Evening Prayer 6:10 p.m. in the Courtyard Room
Confirmation 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Grown-Up Youth Group

Once a month, parents of confirmation students are invited for a "grown up youth group" gathering with Pastor Brad during the confirmation hour at a nearby restaurant or coffee shop. The time will be spent connecting with other parents and discussing the topic youth will be discussing that night in their class.

The first gathering will be held on October 7th at Centro in Roseville from 7 – 7:50 p.m.

10th Grade Students

Those students who have completed the confirmation program and desire to be confirmed should plan to attend the following 10th grade capstone experiences:

- **Sunday, October 4** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Capstone 2: Faith Vocation Pannel and Faith Project (Stoles)
- **Wednesday, October 21** 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Capstone 3: Finalizing Stoles, Faith Project Party & Worship Rehearsal
    - 5:00 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.-- Pizza in the Youth Room
    - 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.-- Finalizing Stoles
    - 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. -- Faith Project Party with 7th-9th Grades
    - 8 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. -- Worship Rehearsal

The Rite of Confirmation will be held in worship on Reformation Sunday, October 25th at 10:00 a.m.
A photography session will be held at 9:15 a.m.

Music News

Children & Youth Music

Chapel Ringers / The handbell choir

The adult bell choir **needs more players!** The more players we have, the more bells we can ring.
(We call people "players" because Play = Fun!)

We rehearse Thursdays from 6:00-7:15 and play on the 1st Sunday of the month and Christmas Eve with maybe a couple of other playing opportunities. Contact Charlie Preis at preisdogs@gmail.com or 651-485-3924

Band of Angels

You've heard us before, now be a part of it. We take all ages from Middle school on up. Where else can you have a band/orchestra that has both kids and adults playing together? So, if you haven't played your band or orchestra instrument in years, then it's time to oil up those valves, put on a new reed, tighten up those strings and PLAY!

We will be back and playing at the service on November 16th (rehearsals after the services on Nov 2 & 9). Contact Charlie Preis at preisdogs@gmail.com or 651-485-3924

St. Michael's Singers / The adult choir

Rehearsals: Wednesdays at 7:00pm to 8:30pm

No audition required, unless you beg for one!
All voice parts welcome. High School ages and beyond!!
Contact Karen Wilkerson for more information.

Social Ministry

Social Ministry Calendar

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

Monday, October 5 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.

Sunday, October 11 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!

Tuesday, October 13 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.

Wednesdays, October 14 & 28 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 (or other selected days) during the school year, in order that children and youth have meals they can prepare at home over the weekend. The new calendar and sign-up is now posted on SignUp Genius. Feel free to check out the information online or connect with Pastor Brad.

Save the Date! Loaves & Fishes will serve at Great is Thy Faithfulness

Monday, November 16

Teams from St. Michael's shop for, prepare, and serve a meal in North Minneapolis. You can sign up online via Sign-up Genius or call the church office. This service opportunity is a great way for people of all ages 9 and older to serve in the community, as we help to serve a hot and delicious meal.

This year we will be serving at **Great is Thy Faithfulness Church, located at 1115 N. 30th Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411.**

- Food Preparation Team arrives at 2:00 p.m.
- Serving Team arrives at 4:15-4:30 p.m.
- Clean-up Team arrives between 5:00-5:15 p.m.

And to plan for the year ahead the dates when St. Michael's is serving at Loaves & Fishes are:

- November 16
- January 11 (note change to 2nd Monday due to MLK holiday)
- March 15
- May 17

Winter Wear Drive

Join the Brimhall Reading Team

Make a Difference in Just 15 Minutes a Week!

Imagine helping a child discover the joy of reading—and all it takes is 15 minutes a week!

The Roseville Area Optimists Club and St. Michael's Lutheran Church are gearing up for another wonderful year supporting young readers at Brimhall Elementary School. Over the past two years, this program has brought so much joy to students and volunteers alike, and as we prepare to launch this October, we are looking for friendly faces to join our team!

What to Expect

- **A Small Time Commitment:** Just 15 minutes on Wednesday mornings reading one-on-one with a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grader.
- **Built-in Flexibility:** The program runs for 27 weeks during the school year, but you can take up to 5 weeks off whenever life gets busy.
- **Substitute Options:** If you can't commit to weekly sessions, you can sign up as a substitute reader to step in when needed!

- **A Moment to Cherish:** One of our volunteers, Grete Hanson, captured the magic of these sessions perfectly: *"I met with a shy but enthusiastic student who was eager to 'sound out' her reading assignment. She also told me about her favorite birthday cake flavor (vanilla!) and her favorite gift (Legos!). I'm looking forward to the weeks ahead!"*

Why Your Time Matters
Think for a moment about how difficult daily life would be as an adult without the ability to read—simple, everyday tasks quickly become major obstacles. David Black, who has spent ten years mentoring young readers, shares a powerful truth: giving early support to a child in 1st through 3rd grade completely changes their trajectory. Last year, 23 dedicated volunteers supported 27 students alongside Brimhall's fantastic teachers. With your help, we can reach even more kids this year!

Ready to Make a Difference?
Whether you can commit to a weekly slot or serve as a flexible substitute, your encouragement will mean the world to a child. We'd love to welcome you to the team!
Reach out to learn more or sign up:

- Mike Gregory:
- David Black:

Guatemala Partnership

Eleven members of St. Michael's are about to head to Guatemala to strengthen our partnership with ILAG (Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala). Those returning are eager to visit with friends again and share the treasures of our partnership with new travelers.

Following the positive feedback from our previous trip, some members of the delegation will be traveling up to the village of Cimiento, while others will remain in Guatemala City at the Lutheran Center. Each option has advantages and allows travelers to customize the trip to best suit their needs and goals.

This year, Santa Cruz de la Esperanza, our partner congregation, has invited us to help construct the kitchen building on the church property. We think we will be learning the basics of concrete block construction from our partners as they invite us to help them construct this important meeting place for their church community.

After our time apart, the two groups will reunite for a trip to Antigua to immerse ourselves in the cultural treasures Guatemala has to offer. We are looking forward to the great coffee, chocolate, jade, and textiles that Guatemala has to offer.

Study and Fellowship Opportunities

The Wednesday Evening Discussion Group

Wednesday evenings in October
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 stand alone so there is no need to commit to a series.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

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

Throughout the 2026-2027 Program Year our Bible Study will follow the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. Additionally, we will be incorporating reflections from author Debi Thomas on several of the gospel texts. These readings are available in her book, *Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ*. (This book is available for purchase online, or from local bookstores.)

Thursday, October 1

Isaiah 5:1-7	The song of the vineyard
Psalm 80:7-15	Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine.
Philippians 3:4b-14	Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ
Matthew 21:33-46	The parable of the vineyard owner's son

Thursday, October 8

Isaiah 25:1-9	The feast of victory
Psalm 23	You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over.
Philippians 4:1-9	Rejoice in the Lord always
Matthew 22:1-14	The parable of the unwelcome guest at the wedding feast

Thursday, October 15

Isaiah 45:1-7	An earthly ruler as the instrument of God's will
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]	Ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Thanksgiving for the church at Thessalonica
Matthew 22:15-22	A teaching on giving to the emperor and to God

Thursday, October 22 (Reformation Texts)

Jeremiah 31:31-34	I will write my law in their hearts, says the Lord
Psalm 46	The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)
Romans 3:19-28	Justified by God's grace as a gift
John 8:31-36	Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth

Thursday, October 29 (All Saints Texts)

Revelation 7:9-17	The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb
Psalm 34:1-10, 22	Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord; for those who fear the Lord lack nothing. (Ps. 34:9)
1 John 3:1-3	We are God's children
Matthew 5:1-12	Blessed are the poor in spirit

Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ, Debi Thomas, pp. 120-124.

Thursday, November 5

Amos 5:18-24	Let justice roll down like waters
Psalm 70	You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20	The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction.
Matthew 25:1-13	The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids

Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ, Debi Thomas, pp. 160-163.

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.

This fall we are starting with one group that will meet on the first Wednesday of the month at St. Michael's. The first gathering of the new program year will be on Wednesday, September 9th at St. Michael's in Classroom 1.

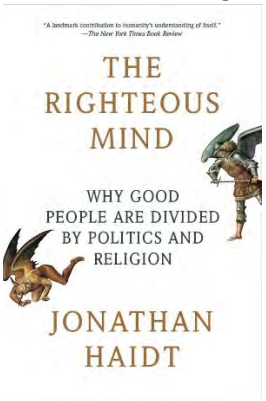
Additionally, there have been some who have expressed an interest in a before or after work gathering. If this is something that would be of interest to you, please connect with Pastor Brad. He is open to adding an additional group if there is interest.

The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion, Jonathan Haidt

October 7: Part 2
November 4: Part 3

We Mend with Gold: An Immigrant Daughter's Reckoning with American Christianity, Kristin T. Lee

December 2: Introduction & Part 1
January 6: Part 2 & Epilogue



Esther Circle

Join other women for fellowship and learning on the first Tuesdays of the month at 10:00 a.m.
The next gathering is on **October 6** in the church courtyard room.
Newcomers are especially welcome!

Women's Buffet

Save the Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2026!

CHRISTMAS PRESENCE

The Women's Christmas Buffet is in the near future!

Sunday November1, 2026 - Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Sign your name ,what you will be bringing, and how many guests.

Start the Advent Season leading up to Christmas with wonderful stories, poems, songs, tales not to mention delicious food from the ladies of St. Michaels ending with "Presences"

More information will be coming in the November Messenger and Bulletins.

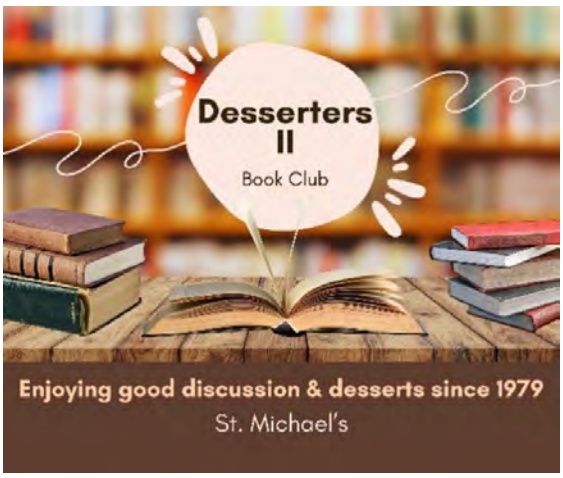
Gentlemen of St. Michael's, would you like to help with the Women's Christmas Buffet and join in the "FUN"?
Please call Sandy if you can help.
Thank you in advance.

Mahjong

Have you ever wanted to learn to play mahjong? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow St. Michael's members better? Please join us on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Courtyard Room for open play. All are welcome, even beginners! Learn mahjong in a welcoming space.

Contact Sue Kuhn or Jane Doyle with any questions.

The Desserters II Book Club



The Desserters II Book Club will meet on Tuesday, October 27 to discuss *Dovetails in Tall Grass* by Samantha Specks

Inspired by the true story of the thirty-eight Dakota-Sioux men hanged in Minnesota in 1862—the largest mass execution in US history—this is a powerful tale of two young women connected by the fate of one man.

All are welcome
Meetings: 7:00 in Classroom 1 at the church
Desserts, decaf coffee, and water provided.
Contact: Verena Larson

Looking Ahead:
Nov. 17, 2026 The Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway (one week early)
Jan. 26, 2027 *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn
Feb. 23, 2027 *Call Me American* by Abdi Nor Iftin
Mar. 23, 2027 *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston
Apr. 27, 2027 *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood
May 25, 2027 *Miracle Children* by Katie Benner and Erica L. Green

Men's Bible and Brew

Thursday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.

This month we are going to meet on ***Thursday, October 29, at 7:00 p.m.*** We will try out a new location: **Dual Citizen Brewery, 725 Raymond Avenue, St. Paul, 55114** (at University and Raymond--the edge of Saint Anthony Park and Desnoyer Park in Saint Paul; with Hwy 280 and Prospect Park in Minneapolis just to the west).

Oftentimes with the confirmation students we mark Reformation by having them come up with a list of things they would change in the Church/World if they could. You are invited to come with your "Theses" and what you would want to pound on the church door to make things different in the world.

As we gather we will remember how, by the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time and call for change. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith.

Join in conversation and connection on this Thursday evening!

Yoga Devotion

The next session runs September 14 – October 26
Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
7 weeks, $84.

Join Yogadevotion in partnership with St. Michael's for an uplifting mat-based yoga class that blends strength-building and balance-enhancing postures with mindful movement to help you feel stronger, steadier, and more centered. Whether you're looking to improve flexibility, build confidence, or simply enjoy an hour of self-care, this class offers a welcoming space to nurture both body and spirit.

If you would like to try a free class to learn more about yoga, please contact Deb Legan for the zoom link and join us. Follow the QR code to register and pay for the class or go to Yogadevotion.com/classes

A Church at Work

Stewardship 2027

Keep an eye on your mailbox! The 2027 Stewardship Materials "For Such a Time as This" should be arriving soon.

The importance of a pledge: St. Michael's continues to grow because of the generosity of our community! We hope you will join this important work and make a financial commitment to St. Michael's. By sharing your estimated financial giving in advance (pledge) you can help us plan better for ministry. Thank you for prayerfully considering your gift and engaging in the spiritual practice of generosity!

Church Council Corner

The Church Council met on Tuesday, September 8

Ginger called the meeting to order and Pastor Ali opened the meeting in prayer.

Business

The Council received the Financial and Treasurer's report.

There was conversation to plan for:

- Lunch on the Lawn on Rally Sunday (Sep 13)
- Religion in Life (Sep 20) and the Role of Deacon and Conversation around calling a Deacon at St. Michael's

Motion regarding Lutheran Disaster Assistance

Lutheran Disaster Response – proposal to provide an additional $3000 to help with flooding landslides in Nepal and Tibet. (This provides additional support, beyond the $3000 allocated by the pastors). The motion carried.

The next council meeting will be in-person – Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

A Recent Council Devotion

One of the things that captured my attention and interest during our visit this spring to Great Smoky Mountain National Park was the preservation of the living history of the area. Strolling through the eighteenth-century cabins, farmsteads, and churches brought to the surface my memories of visits as a boy to Grandpa and Grandma's farm. I remember so well the barn, the chicken coop, and the workshop with its large anvil and vise. Nestled in the hills nearby was Grace Lutheran Church with stained glass windows commemorating my great-grandparents, Nels and Ingeborg Utterberg. Seems … our history as a people helps inform our present day lives.

The oldest surviving piece of biblical text ever found is the Ketef Hinnom silver scrolls from the late 7th century BCE discovered in the 1979-80. When the silver scrolls were unrolled and translated, they revealed the priestly Benediction from Num 6:24-26 reading, "May Yahweh bless you and keep you; May Yahweh cause his face to Shine upon you and grant you Peace." These words written down nearly 2700 years ago contain a message that has carried into worship here at St. Michaels on a regular basis today.

We have several old texts in our home that have been passed down from generation to generation. One is a book of Psalms from 1819. I can't read beyond the title, "Psalm-Boken", as it is written in Norwegian, yet I am familiar with those poetic words in the book of Psalms that have expressed deep human emotion, praise, and prayer to God in 1819 and back 2500+ years ago when it is said the Psalms were to have been written.

We also have a Lutheran Hymnary published in 1923 by Augsburg Publishing house for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod. It looks much like our current Lutheran Book of Worship.

A third book of our collected antiquities is a devotional, "Today with God", published in 1944 and given to my in-laws as they married in 1950 by their pastor and wife, Pastor and Mrs. Conrad Thompson of Watertown, SD. In the front cover, Pastor Thompson wrote, "Choose you this whom ye shall serve… but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15. I periodically open this old book to the day's date to see what it has to say and often find a message that speaks to today's world, as I'm sure it would have in 1923, 1819, and even 650 BCE.

I wrestle with my faith from time to time. Yet, there is something about seeing my great-grandparents, Nels and Ingeborg Utterburg, forever captured in stained glass at Grace Lutheran, and holding this 200-year-old Book of Psalms written in a language foreign to me that helps me to honor this faith that has stood the test of time with the power to carry still relevant messages for today's world.

Let me offer these words written 2700 years ago as a prayer for tonight.
"May Yahweh bless you and keep you; May Yahweh cause his face to Shine upon you and grant you Peace."

~Bill Lindquist

Property Committee

Met on Tuesday, September 15.
Items discussed:

- **Solar Panels Update**—Xcel will move forward the end of October; plan for panels to be placed end of Oct/first of Nov.
- **Mini-splits in Coutyard room and Education classrooms**—to be completed this fall.
- **Repair of the Large Church sign next to County Road B**—is leaning and needs more stability. Received information from Carol Kriegler; reviewed next steps.
- **Approved dishwasher repair contract—**current dishwasher is 15 years old. Last year we can get a parts and maintenance warranty. Will move forward for this year and evaluate next year.
- **Budget for 2027** – started budget planning; looking at long-term projects and building fund.
- **Grounds items**—look at tree trimming, removal or trimmings of some bushes/shrubs.
- **Roof Inspection to be scheduled for this fall**.

- **Upcoming items:**
    - Replacement of light fixture in Men's restroom; Placement of Free Little Pantry; Placement of interior doors for Northern Voices security; Contract for Snow plowing & shoveling for winter; planning landscaping options for next spring.
- **The committee also did a survey/walk around property to review any outstanding issues.**

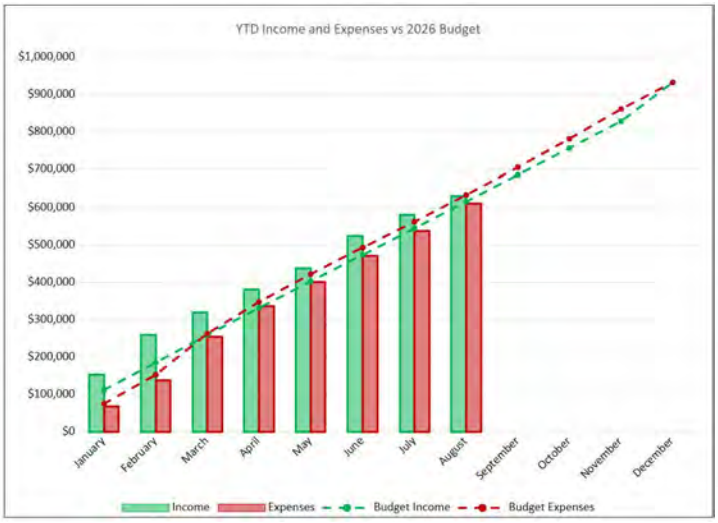
Lisa Koland provided a list of items accomplished by the committee or volunteers:

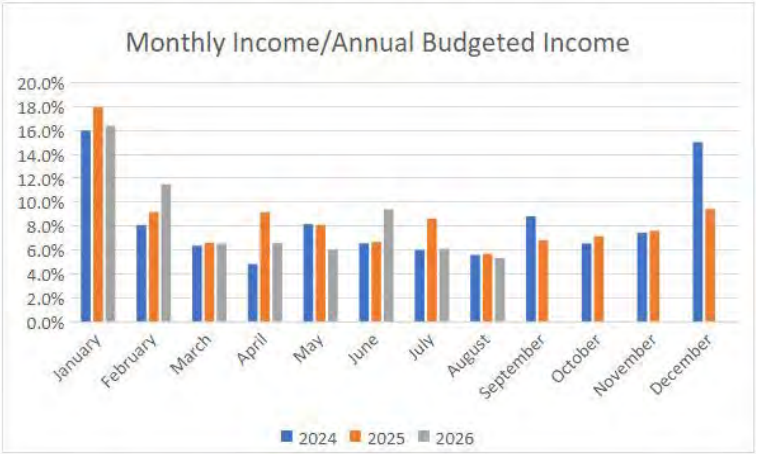
- All lights on the Education wing have been replaced with ballast-less LEDs.
- Extra track lights have been added to the choir loft so they can read music easier.
- Replaced old leaking valves on urinal in Boys bathroom (education side)
- Fire monitoring system inspection completed: passed.
- Installed solar powered camera with lights outside of door 2 (Fellowship Hall patio).
- New sprinklers for the courtyard.
- Replaced broken coat hooks for the school.
- New light blocker shades for the nap room.
- Duct inspection of the Courtyard Room and Preschool Rooms.
- New vents installed in the Courtyard Room.
- New vents installed in the preschool room & Northern Voices office and adjusted air flow to increase room comfort.
- Repaired and rekeyed the Fellowship Hall back doors so they can be secured.
- New carpet for the Offices.
- Ordered new lights for the Men's and Boys bathrooms. (to be replaced in the next couple of weeks).
- Pew removed from the Children's Library for remodel by CYF.

2026 Budget Overview and Financial Update

	August Budget	August Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Annual Budget
Income	**$71,077**	**$49,402**	**630,194**	**$933,585**
Expenses	$68,124	$72,458	610,137	$933,585
Balance	$2,953	$-23,056	20,057	$0

August was our lowest income month of the year so far but that is in line with patterns from recent years. We still hope that income rebonds in the last part of the year so that we end with a balanced budget as we projected.





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 November *Messenger*?

The *Messenger* submission deadline is Friday, **October 16, 2026**

St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1660 County Road B West
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

St. Michael's Staff Directory

Ali Ferin, Co-Pastor
ali@stmichaelselca.com

Brad Froslee, Co-Pastor
brad@stmichaelselca.com

Lisa Koland, Church Administrator
office@stmichaelselca.com

Natalie Romero,
Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries
youth@stmichaelselca.com

Ethan Williams, Director of Children & Youth Music
ethan@stmichaelselca.com

Max Gouette, Communications Associate
Communication@stmichaelselca.com

St. Michael's Lutheran
www.stmichaelselca.com , 651-631-1510

Thomas Bartsch, Organist

Jill Schendel, Pianist

Karen Wilkerson, St. Michael's Singer's Choir Director

Charles Preis, Chapel Ringer's Bell Choir Director

Savita Oberdorfer & Dan Lange
Custodians

Torin Froslee & Abby Nelson
Weekend Custodians

Peggy Mehen, Administrative Assistant

Gabby Bell & Ian Hitchman
Nursery Care Attendants

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