

Religion In Life

Sundays 10-10:50 am in the Courtyard Room

January 8

Church Constitution Update

Church Council

At this year's churchwide assembly, the ELCA amended the model constitution for congregations. Since then, a team from St. Michael's has been reviewing our constitution and the new updates. We will vote to accept the changes at the annual meeting on January 22. Come learn about the updates being recommended by the team.

January 15

Coffee with Pastor Brad

Pastor Brad Froslee

Members of the St. Michael's youth will be "interviewing" Pastor Brad so that we can get to know him better! Join us for this time of coffee, conversation, and fun.

January 22

What in The World Is My Pope Up To? Francis and Luther as Similar Reformers

Dr. Luther Dale

Pope Francis and Martin Luther share striking similarities of reformation for their times. Learn how their view of the gospel speaks a fresh word that is revolutionary, contains unsettling truths and demands response from individuals and those in power. Dr. Luther Dale is a former teaching pastor at Incarnation Lutheran Church in North Oaks, MN.

January 29

Faith Communities and People with Mental Illness and Their Families

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Learn more about the stigma around mental illness and how to reduce it from NAMI, (National Alliance on Mental Illness) a leader in education, support, and advocacy. Together we will better understand the role that faith and faith communities can have in recovery.

February 5

What Do You See? Photographs and Their Stories

Wing Young Huie

Showing photos from his many projects, Wing addresses the ethical, aesthetic, and cultural challenges of interacting with thousands of strangers. He will reveal the stories behind his photographs, complicating our perspectives and facilitating deep discussion on diversity. Wing is a Minnesota photographer whose work has been exhibited in galleries and museums nationally and internationally.

February 12

In the Image of God: Language, Religion and the History of Feminism

Dr. Sara Evans

For hundreds of years, women have felt it necessary to challenge religious language in order to claim their right to speak. Recently, the need to challenge exclusive language and images has lost its sense of urgency for many progressives while it remains a red flag for religious traditionalists.

February 19

Interreligious Dialogue

Dr. Anantanand Rambachan

This presentation will discuss the challenges as well as the opportunities presented by our new inter-religious context, as well as the significance and nature of inter-religious dialogue. Dr. Rambachan is Professor of Religion at St. Olaf College, Minnesota and is a Visiting Professor at the Academy for the Study of World Religions at the University of Hamburg in Germany. Prof. Rambachan has been involved in the field of interreligious relations and dialogue for over 25 years, as a Hindu participant and analyst. Professor Rambachan led the first two White House Celebration of the Hindu Festival of Diwali in 2003 and 2004. Join us as we welcome Dr. Rambachan for this engaging time of learning and dialogue!

February 26

An Hour with Dr. Earl Schwartz

Dr. Earl Schwartz

St. Michael's welcomes back Dr. Earl Schwartz, professor at Hamline University to lead us in an engaging conversation about the intersection of religion, society, and politics. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from Dr. Schwartz!

March 5

Wives, Mothers, Sisters, and Daughters

Anna Grunner

The Old Testament can seem like a collection of stories about men, their sons and who inherits what—stories that largely leave women out. But in fact, the Hebrew Bible is full of complex, creative and resourceful women who play incredibly important roles in the biblical narratives. During this study, we will read some key stories about women in the Bible (Sarah, Rebekah, Dinah, Abigail, Hannah, Esther, and others), ask new questions about them, and think together about why it matters how we read them today.

March 12

Something Old, Something New: Christian Contemplative Practices for Today

Dr. Joann Nesser

Can ancient practices renew the church? After years creating her own

spiritual practices, Dr. Joann Nesser began giving retreats and teaching others about prayer. Over the years she has found that many people have turned to Buddhist practices for inner peace not knowing that Christianity has contemplative practices of its own. This practices take us beyond petition and intercession to an intimate relationship with God that is the foundation for all of life.

March 19

Women in Prison

Deborah Jiang-Stein

Deborah Jiang-Stein is founder of the unPrison Project (www.unprison-project.org), a nonprofit working to build life skills capacity and mentoring for incarcerated women and girls. Her memoir, *Prison Baby*, is described as "One woman's struggles—beginning with her birth in prison—to find self-acceptance, proving that redemption and healing are possible, even from the darkest corners." Don't miss this opportunity to engage with Deborah on her memoir and learn more about the unPrison Project.

March 26

Commissioned Savages

Jim Bear Jacobs

Jim Bear Jacobs will lead us as we look at how the Doctrine of Discovery and Manifest Destiny so completely permeated life in the early 20th century that it is still on display in the architecture and artwork of our state capital building. We will explore the troubling ways that Native Americans are portrayed in our public spaces. Jim Bear Jacobs is a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, an American Indian tribe located in central Wisconsin. He has degrees in Pastoral Studies and Christian Theology and is a convener of "Healing Minnesota Stories," a committee creating events of dialogue and education within faith communities.

April 2

The Ebola Outbreak: How did the Story End?

Starr K. Sage, Ph.D., MPH

Not long ago, the world was gripped by the crisis of Ebola in several countries in Africa; yet we haven't heard much about it since. Join us as we welcome Dr. Starr Sage from the University of St. Thomas to share with us what progress has been made in fighting this disease...and what remains to be done. How did the story end? Come and join us as we find out!

April 9

Outreach and Advocacy for Nonviolent Peaceforce

Outreach and Advocacy for Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) promotes and provides unarmed protection for civilians in places where violent conflict threatens their safety. Regions where the organization has provided training, support, or direct protection include South Sudan, Syria, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and most recently, the Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota. Join this conversation to learn more about this work and nonviolent peacekeeping.

OTHER ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

April 23

Being a member of the Global Church: Social, Political, and Environmental Forces

Dr. Guillermo Hansen

Dr. Guillermo Hansen is a professor of Systematic Theology at Luther Seminary in St. Paul and holds the Martin Luther King Jr. Chair for Justice and Christian Community. Dr. Hansen has published many articles, essays and chapters in both Spanish and English on public theology, theology and science and church and globalization. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from Dr. Hansen what it means to be a member of the global church in today's world.

April 30

The Healthy Brain: Maintaining Mental Fitness

Carolyn Klaver, R. N.

Learn strategies to help ensure a healthier brain based on the four things you can do now for mental fitness. Carolyn Klaver, RN, has many years experience working with individuals who have early and mid-stage memory loss, and their caregivers. Carolyn will be able to answer your questions and provide resources for learning more and getting help.

May 7

Community Gardens: Building Community with Food

Katheryn Schneider

Spring is here and it's time to think about your garden! Katheryn will draw on her experience from starting a 2 acre, 250 plot community garden on Rice Street in Maplewood to share why gardens are a place of community building and solving conflicts. She will also be sharing resources on how to start a community garden.

May 14

Depression in Youth

Dr. Mike Miller

Michael Miller, Psy.D., L.P. is an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota. Join him for an important conversation on how depression in youth leads to self harming behaviors and what we can do to support young people.

May 21

Keeping Sabbath: An Act of Cultural Resistance

Dr. Richard Nysse

Sabbath observance is commonly seen as restrictive: store closures and restrictions on the sale of liquor are examples. This session will explore the biblical warrant for Sabbath observance as resistance rather than restriction. Keeping the Sabbath pushes back at worldviews that seek to define and measure us apart from the unbounded grace of God.

Monday's Ministries

Join us Mondays at 7:00 am at St. Michael's for a continental breakfast and conversational exploration of the current issues that affect how we live as faithful Christian people today. The conversations are guided by relevant articles, issues and group suggestions. The first meeting of 2017 will be scheduled once Pastor Brad Froslee is in office. For more information or to be added to the email/call list for upcoming meetings, please contact the church office at 651-631-1510 or email office@stmichaelselca.com

Faith in Daily Life

Take a break for lunch and conversation about the issues of life and the guidance faith provides in addressing them. Faith in Daily Life groups meet at restaurants in both St. Paul and Minneapolis once a month for book discussion. More details about this ministry for 2017 will be given once Pastor Brad Froslee is in office. For more information or to be added to the email/call list for upcoming meetings, please contact the church office at 651-631-1510 or email office@stmichaelselca.com

Thursday Morning Study - Starting January 19

Thursday morning Bible study at St. Michael's runs from 9:30-10:30 am and will be led by different members of our congregation speaking on biblical and social matters in their areas of expertise. Thursday Morning Study will resume on January 19th with Pastor Brad Froslee. All are welcome!

Women's Circles

The Women's Circles are places of monthly conversation and fellowship!

Sarah Circle meets the first Tuesday of every month at 9:30 am.

Beginning January 3 at church.

Elisabeth Circle meets the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm.

Beginning January 4 at church.

As a part of each meeting the groups will continue to discuss the book, *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter* by Minnesotan Episcopal priest and author, Lindsay Freeman. It is not necessary to purchase the book if you'd like to participate! This year, the book will be coupled with contemporary issues that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has wrestled with and reported in published "Social Statements". If you are interested in joining a circle or would like more information, contact Pastor Ali Ferin at ali@stmichaelselca.com or call the church office.

Desserters II Book Club and Discussion

Folks meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm to discuss the book of the month and share dessert. Contact Terry Boehlke at boehlke_1946@hotmail.com for details. The books for the winter/spring months are:

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| January 24 | <i>The Secret Chord</i> by Geraldine Brooks |
| February 28 | <i>Just Mercy</i> by Bryan Stevenson |
| March 28 | <i>Lab Girl</i> by Hope Jahren |
| April 25 | <i>Wintering</i> by Peter Gey |
| May 23 | <i>Barkskins</i> by Annie Proulx |

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*St. Michael's
Lutheran Church*

*Winter
2017*

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Faith in Daily Life
Thursday Morning Study
Women's Circles
Desserters II*

St. Michael's Lutheran Church
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