



St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Messenger

September 2021

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“Catch me in my anxious scurrying, O Lord.”

by Pastor Ali Ferin



I have uttered this prayer written by Ted Loder more times than I can count these past few months. This long season of pandemic life has taken a toll on us, and though summer once glittered with hope that things might return back to “normal” this fall, the Delta Variant of the virus snatched any optimism that “normal” was within reach. Now as we stand at the edge of September, I find myself reflecting on the words of Charles Warzel, who recently wrote that *“Normal is a nonsense word that is mostly a stand-in for feeling comfortable and certain.”* Privilege has afforded me comfort and certainty as a standard to expect in my life, at least in a mundane sense, and my awareness of this privilege grows with each news article I read about Afghani citizens clinging to the exterior of airplanes and wildfires devouring and destroying entire regions of our country and world.

Wishing for normal now seems ignorant, or at the very least naive, but it's a hard desire to shake. I find myself trying on various distractions in an effort to ease myself to the reality we are in: I busy myself with future plans that will likely not come to fruition. I immerse myself with plans and procedures as if I could single-handedly correct this public health crisis with my own to-do list. I push through discomfort forcing myself to live into *what could be* rather than what is right now. *Catch me in my anxious scurrying, O Lord.*

There are times where living into a hoped for future is helpful and even healthy, but what I sense I need (and perhaps you do too) is to greet myself in my current state without judgement, without forcing myself into what *should be* or what *might be*, and instead honor what I am feeling and experiencing right now. Recently, I came across this invitation from therapist Lisa Olivera: when you find yourself feeling heavy, your tendency might be to ask yourself, “how can I feel lighter right now?” But perhaps a more supportive question to explore is, “How can I meet myself **here** right now?” The desire to fix our feelings, maximize our happiness, rid ourselves of difficulty, and bypass hard moments is natural, but in doing so, we neglect the parts of ourselves that are grieving and in pain. This is what I mean when I pray: *Catch me in my anxious scurrying, O Lord.* I am praying that God might still my heart, hold me close, and allow me to simply be, examining my feelings and experiences without judgement or shame. The gift of a faith community is the freedom and space to do this together.

We walk cautiously into fall with plans for worship, music, faith formation, and fellowship in hopes that we can gather in ways that feel familiar and connect as a church in ways that are meaningful. But we also recognize that we cannot rely on the comfort and certainty we once held.

Continued on next page

Life of the Congregation

continued from pg 1.

When our staff went on retreat in August, we acknowledged this reality as we adapted and shifted ministry plans for the year ahead, preparing for an unknown season of life together. Yet the piece that brought us hope in the midst of all the uncertainties was the promise and gift of **together**, not just as a staff but with you, the people of St. Michael's. We serve in a place that is filled with grace, honesty, generosity, and love. And when we feel the frustrations of change and yearn for "normal", may we remember that we are in it together. *Catch us in our anxious scurrying, O Lord. Amen.*

Fall Worship Schedule

Starting Sunday, September 12

Worship lead by piano at **8:45 a.m.**

Worship lead by organ at **11:00 a.m.**

Reformation & Confirmation

Sunday, October 31

All Saints

Sunday, November 7

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 24

Our regular Sunday schedule and worship times resume on September 12.

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24,
4:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 26,
10:00 a.m. service only

Sunday, January 2,

10:00 a.m. service only

Our Church Community

New Members

Josh Seeman

Josh was born in Columbia and was adopted by a family in Prior Lake, Minnesota, when he was five years old. He spent many of his formative years

in Prior Lake surrounded by family and friends.

Josh now lives in St. Paul and was introduced to St. Michael's by Sara Johnson and Jill Schilling. He loves sports like bocce ball and football and is active with the Special Olympics. He also loves being around water and enjoying time on the beach (though he admits he is less excited about swimming).

Josh is excited to volunteer and get to know more people at St. Michael's.



Dolores and Bill Rivard



"We look forward to becoming members of St. Michael's congregation. We recently moved into our current home in Roseville, and visited several churches as we searched for a congregation that we felt would be a good fit for us. We were impressed and pleased with the kindness, and friendliness, of everyone we came in contact with during the services we attended, and felt most comfortable at St. Michaels."

Both are retired and are enjoying the many tasks involved with having purchased a mid-century rambler home. Dolores is a Master Gardener, and is enjoying working on transforming the outdoor area into what she wants. Bill is busy doing things with the home to modernize and update it.

JoAnn (Jo) and Tom Heyd



Tom and JoAnne (Jo) moved to Roseville to be near their daughter and her family. In fact, Tom designed their apartment/home as an extension of their daughter's home, adding their own special touches.

Tom grew up in South Dakota; Jo is a "ranger" from Northern Minnesota. They met here in the Twin Cities when Tom was attending Luther Seminary and have been married for 58 years. Tom is a retired pastor who has served congregations in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota for 55 years. Jo has been active in her communities as a homemaker and seamstress.

Their interests include wood-working, travel, vegan cooking, history, writing...and so much more.

Welcome in Baptism



Sofia Rodriguez Solis

Beloved child of José & Blanca
Baptized May 22, 2021



Waylon Marquis

Beloved child of Mack & Britt
Baptized June 6, 2021



Finn Tenut

Beloved child of Laura & Nate
Baptized August 8, 2021



Mabel and Matilda Eno

Beloved children of Greg & Kaisa
Baptized August 16, 2021



Margit Wynia

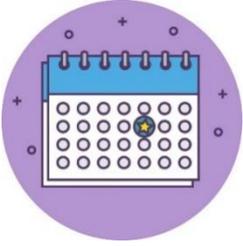
Beloved child of Adam & Megan
Baptized July 24, 2021

Blessing on a New Journey

Kim & Neal Chapman
The Blessing and Farewell by the
congregation on August 22



Social Ministry Activities



Social Ministry Calendar

Panera Bread Ministry Daily

September 6

Rezek House Meal

September 12, 11a.m.

Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission

September 14

Mobile Food Distribution

September 20

Loaves & Fishes

The “Social” in Social Ministry Needs You!

There are many opportunities to get involved in outreach work at St. Michael’s! More information and sign-ups are available online at <https://www.stmichaelselca.com/local> Volunteers are needed in the current ministry areas:

Panera Bread Rescue When the Rosedale Panera closes in the evening, a volunteer retrieves the day-old food before it is thrown out and brings it back to church. A morning team repackages the items and brings them to the local food shelf. Evening and morning volunteers are needed.

Food Distribution On the second Tuesday of every month from 2-4 pm, Keystone Community Services brings the mobile food shelf truck to St. Michael’s and volunteers provide hospitality and support the staff during the distribution. If the food mobile truck is unavailable, we provide free groceries to the community. Volunteers are needed!

Rezek House Meal Rezek House is a transitional shelter for 15 homeless youth in the Midway neighborhood of St. Paul. The first Monday of each month, St. Michael’s volunteers provide a community meal for the residents. Food can be dropped off at the shelter earlier in the afternoon to be reheated by the staff or can be dropped off at dinnertime.

Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission The Second Sunday of each month, volunteers make sandwiches in the kitchen for the Union Gospel Mission in St. Paul. This is a great opportunity for volunteers of all ages!

Our Guatemala Partnership

by Sandy Eliason

In the 19 years St. Michaels has been a partner to our ILAG congregation in Cimiento Guatemala, I have only travelled there three times, far less than other members of our congregation, but I found a frequent question to be, “What do you do there?”



Saying “We walk with the people” has sounded vague, even to me, and explaining our “Accompaniment Model” has felt elusive. But a recent “Deep Listening” training session with the Church Council and some additional readings brought some clarity. Let me share how two articles brought our mission into focus for me. One was on how health campaigns can lead to distrust of the very people delivering aid, and the other was on the difference between Helping, Fixing, and Serving.

The first article explained how attempts to inoculate the Maya against smallpox had led to coercion, violence, and either coopting or obliterating Mayan values. The second talked about how our attempts to “help” are ways of attaching our values to what we think another needs.

ILAG leads by allowing the villagers to name their needs and how to meet them, while also promoting education and finding ways for the people to improve their own situation within their own lifestyle and culture. ILAG then teaches their ELCA partners like us to stop, experience, listen and befriend our partners before launching into plans to rescue people who do not need rescuing.

The article, by Rachel Naomi Remen, talks about the disadvantages of helping and fixing. Helping, she says, is based on inequality. When you help, you use your strength to help those of lesser strength, those more needy. "Helping" may take away another's ability to feel their own strength or worth.

On a trip to visit a friend from Guatemala, one not associated with ILAG, I heard about the damage often done by groups who come to build schools when there is not an adequate education system to support them, or clinics when there is not sufficient support once the "helpers" have left. In helping, we feel good, but the person who is helped may not. They may be embarrassed by their perceived inadequacy or need or they may not have been truly helped.

Remen states fixing is done when we perceive someone as broken—needing to be fixed. Fixing is a form of judgement—you need repair, I have the mastery and expertise to do it, you do not. I am reminded of the story Joan Felice tells of the Guatemalan agriculture ministry whose experts showed one of the villages how to make a compost pile to "fix" their soil. When the agriculture people left, the villagers did not know what to do with the pile they had been told to make.

The goal with our ILAG partnership is serving.

Serving, per Remen, is seeing the wholeness of life and joining with it: we are all connected. When serving, your suffering is like my suffering and your joy is like my joy. We serve our partners in Cimiento not by seeing them as weak people needing help, nor as broken people to be fixed, but as whole people we can join with, each in our sufferings and joys, feeding us with their wholeness as we feed them with ours.

That is the meaning of "walking beside"—knowing that I can benefit just from being with our Guatemalan partners, understanding their wholeness, not their needs, just as they can benefit from being with me. I accept who they are and what they bring to me; they accept me and what I bring with me. We each know we are cared about and are remembered with love.

[Martha Few, Epidemics, indigenous communities, and public health, Cambridge University Press, 05 November 2020](#)

[Rachel Naomi Remen, In the Service of Life, Noetic Sciences Review, Spring 1996](#)

Refugee Resettlement Update

For I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Matthew 25:35

St. Michael's is preparing to welcome a refugee family to Minnesota! We will get less than 3 weeks notice and we don't know the make-up of the family until that time, so we need your help to be prepared.

There are many ways to contribute! We will equip an entire apartment from scratch – bedroom furniture to toilet bowl brush! After arrival, we will help with initial meals, transportation, registration in school, social programs, and introducing the family to their new neighborhood.

Explore some of the options below and think about how you'd like to get involved.

In September, a display will be near the sanctuary, detailing the many ways you can help. Please consider where your help might be needed.

1. **Apartment Preparation:** Tags for anything an apartment needs – pots and pans, dish towels, dish soap, laundry soap, bath soap... Grab a tag or two and find an item, new or *gently* used.
Feel free to use our Target Registry: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/st-mikes-refugee-registry>
2. **Larger Apartment Needs:** We furnish this apartment – beds to tables. Think about what you have that is in good condition and appropriate for a smaller apartment. *Please don't bring these directly to church.* You can write your name and potential donation on the sheet provided and we will contact you when we learn the family details.
3. **Volunteer to Work with the Family:** We need drivers for appointments, classes, stores and medical offices. We need folks to help show the family around the neighborhood – the park, the bus system, etc.
4. **Volunteer to Help with the Hectic, Last-Minute, Preparation:** We know neither the date nor the time nor the location (sounds like a Bible verse, doesn't it ☺). But we do know an apartment doesn't magically put itself together. We'll need folks (strong ones!) to move in furniture and others to put everything where it belongs.

Did you know?

Less than 1%

of refugees waiting in temporary camps are approved for resettlement.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

2021-2022



Hey St. Michael's Families!

Don't miss the Fall Kick Off Event!

September 12 10:00-10:50 a.m. on the Fellowship Hall lawn

Register for Sunday School, meet Sunday School teachers, learn about children and youth events and music opportunities, and more! Bring a friend!

The first day of Sunday School class is September 19

Family Outdoor Movie Night

Friday, September 24, 6:30p.m.

Come with your family and friends to enjoy a movie at church on September 24th from 6:30-9. This event is open to all ages as an intergenerational event! The movie will begin at 7pm, show up early and bring a blanket/chair! If the weather is poor, we will move into the Fellowship hall and masks will be required.



Save the Date - Worship Milestone Workshop

Sunday, October 17, 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

Children in 1st - 5th grades are invited to the Worship Milestone Workshop on October 17th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

1st-2nd graders will learn about communion as 3rd graders dive deeper into their new bibles. 4th and 5th graders will learn more about worship.

Parent(s)/Guardians, please join your 1st-3rd Grade child(ren) during the milestone workshop. Parent(s) with children in the 4-5th grade, you are encouraged to join in the workshop as well!

CYF Staff Update

As we continue the search for our next Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries we are excited to share that we have an interim Director ready to join our staff and lead during this "in-between" time! Susie Modrow will begin her work at St. Michael's on September 1st. Susie is currently a student at Luther Seminary, finishing up her Master of Divinity this winter. She has a Masters of Arts in Youth Ministry from Luther Seminary and has 26 years of experience in youth ministry in congregations. Read her bio below to learn more about her, and look for her on her first Sunday,

September 5th, or on Kick-Off Sunday on September 12!



Meet Susie!

Hi, St. Michael's! I'm a Minnesota native, currently residing in Shoreview with my three teenagers and a fluffy feline. I'm a semester away from completing my MDiv degree through Luther Seminary. I've spent 16 years in youth ministry and a decade in medical administration. I find renewal in the outdoors and seek adventures regularly. When I'm not able to be out and about, you'll find me knitting or looking for an opportunity to embarrass my offspring. I'm passionate about youth and mental health issues. I'm interested in learning ways congregations participate as members of their neighborhood communities, and I'm looking forward to spending this interim time together!

Children Youth & Family Ministry COVID 19 Update

As we make plans for the upcoming program year we will be adjusting programs to adhere to current health and safety protocols. These may change as the realities of the pandemic shift. Stay up to date on current plans by signing up for the St. Michael's EBlast and the CYF Newsletter. The following guidelines will be in place as we prepare for Sunday School and CYF ministries:

- Masks are required indoors for everyone in Kindergarten and up regardless of vaccination status. Masks are recommended for PreK students.
- Air filtration systems are being updated in the Education wing, particularly for spaces without windows or poor air circulation.
- Leaders should keep windows open in rooms whenever possible.
- Use of outdoor space for lessons and activities as weather permits.
- All adult volunteers are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated.
- Cleaning of materials and resources immediately after use.
- Self-health screening for families and volunteers:

Do not come to church if you have....

- A fever (100.4 or higher)
- chills
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches
- Loss of smell or taste
- You or a member of your household is waiting for COVID19 test results
- You or a member of your household has COVID19 and is in isolation period
- You may be sent home from an activity if you exhibit or develop any of these symptoms at church.

Faith Formation

Confirmation Information Meeting

Wednesday, September 8, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

7th - 9th grade students and parents/caregivers are invited to attend an informational meeting regarding the upcoming confirmation year.

7th -9th Grade Confirmation

Wednesday, September 15, 6:15 – 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Confirmation classes will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Masks are required.

The first day of confirmation class is September 15th. Friends are welcome to join the program. All students must

register for confirmation at www.stmichaelselca.com/confirmation

10th Grade Confirmation Capstone Experiences

Sunday, September 26, 12:30 p.m. Dependable Strengths Workshop

Sunday, October 3, 12:30 p.m. Project Planning Meeting

Wednesday, October 27, 6:30 p.m. Project Party & Rehearsal

10th Grade Confirmation Service

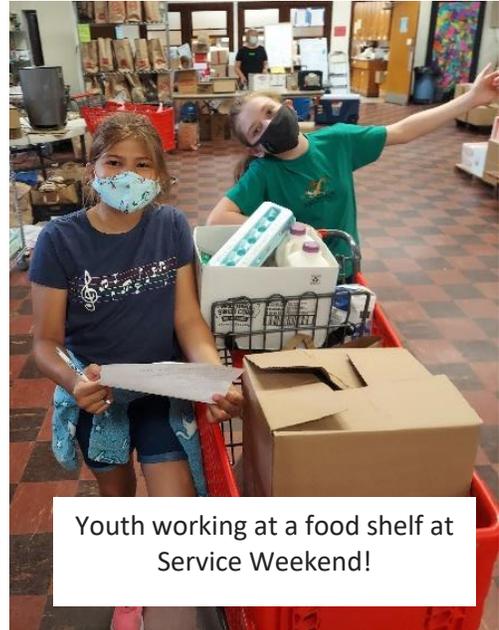
Sunday, October 31, at Worship

The Rite of Confirmation is currently scheduled for Reformation Sunday, October 31st. We will be monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and adjusting details closer to this date to ensure the safety of our young people. Families should watch the mail for information regarding capstone experiences for the students as well as order forms for confirmation robes and photography.

Ministry Happenings



The Camp Amnicon Crew - they had a week of adventure, including sleeping outside in hammocks and river canoeing!



Youth working at a food shelf at Service Weekend!



Youth working hard at Service Weekend!



On August 22 we gathered for the **St. Michael's Get Together!** The day was filled with food trucks, yard games, BINGO, root beer and hymns, and a dunk tank to culminate the school supply drive. Thank you to our amazing volunteers!



Study & Fellowship Opportunities

Monday Morning Ministry

Monday, September 13, 7:00 a.m. in the Courtyard/Courtyard Room

Monday Morning Ministry reconvenes to discuss the topic "Faith and Foreign Policy." We will plan to gather in the courtyard (outdoors) so dress accordingly. Donuts and Coffee will be provided.

With the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the events unfolding in Afghanistan, the conversations around Israel & Palestine, and how we distribute foreign aid, we will delve into conversation around how faith becomes tied to foreign policy in ways that can be good and helpful, and harmful and dangerous.

Pastor Brad will be sending out an article as a conversational jumping off point. If you are interested in attending, please let him know.

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.

**Note that in September we will gather the week following Labor Day.

Sarah Circle: September 14th 9:30 a.m. on Ginny Roadfeldt's patio.

Elisabeth Circle: September 15th 1:30 p.m. Outside the Courtyard Room

Men's Bible and Brew

Tuesday, September 21, 7:30 p.m. outside at St. Michael's

In September St. Michael's Men's Bible & Brew will meet either on the fellowship hall patio or in the courtyard. We will have the opportunity to check in as we move into fall, and will spend time looking at one of the readings for the coming Sunday (Numbers 11).

Together we will ponder

1) are there times we have longed to go back to a former place/time? have we romanticized things in the past? 2) when things don't go as we'd hoped where do we direct our frustration/blame? 3) what constitutes real leadership?...and more. Bring your favorite brew and join the conversation. Feel free to bring snacks to share.



Desserters II Book Club

The Desserters II book club will meet **by Zoom** in September to begin another season of discussing interesting books. All are welcome to join the discussions held on the **4th Tuesdays of the months listed below at 7:00 p.m.**



- **Sept 28, 2021** *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson
Describes a "New Deal-funded Pack Horse Library Project"
- **Oct 26, 2021** *Daughters of Kobani* by Gayle Zemach Lemmon
Focuses on "the contributions of women in wartime Syria"
- **Nov 23, 2021** *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman
Features "the world's most hapless bank robber"
- **Jan 25, 2022** *The Yellow House* by Sarah Broom
Demonstrates "how enduring drives of clan, pride, and familial love resist and defy erasure"
- **Feb 22, 2022** *His Truth is Marching On* by John Meacham
tells the story of John Lewis, the recently deceased civil rights leader
- **Mar 22, 2022** *How Much of These Hills is Gold* by C. Pam Zhang
Questions how an Asian family can survive the gold rush of the American West
- **Apr 26, 2022** *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig
Asks, "if you could live your life over again, would you make the same choices?"
- **May 24, 2022** *Redhead By the Side of the Road* by Anne Tyler
Dramatizes the absurdities of flawed perception and the risks of rigidity."

Yoga Devotion

Monday, September 13, 6:30 p.m. outside at St. Michael's and on Zoom

Yoga Devotion's next series runs Monday evenings, September 13 through November 1. Classes will be on Zoom *and* outside at church so you may attend in person. Beginners are always welcome! If you would like to try a free class to learn more about yoga contact Mary Drache for the zoom link or any questions.

The cost is \$72. Register at www.yogadevotion.com >classes>locate the St. Michael's Sept 13 –Nov 1 class.

Pay via the link or by mailing a check to St. Michael's (please note YogaDevotion in the memo line.)

Faith in Daily Life

Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.(ish) in the Courtyard/Courtyard Room

Faith in Daily Life will be focusing on two books: *Stuff That Needs To Be Said* by John Pavlovitz and *Blueprint: The Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society* by Nicholas A. Christakis. Both will deepen conversation around how we are called to be a vibrant community of faith, living out authentic relationships with one another and the world around us.

This year as we continue to adjust to COVID-19 we will be gathering in the courtyard 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) wearing a mask and head to the outdoor courtyard area (there masks can be removed). We will adjust as the weather gets cooler.

Month 1: *Stuff That Needs To Be Said*, by John Pavlovitz

Stuff That Needs to Be Said About Religion, Faith, Sex, and the Church

Wednesday, September 8

Wednesday, September 22

Month 2: *Stuff That Needs To Be Said*, by John Pavlovitz

Stuff That Needs to Be Said About America, Race, and Politics

Wednesday, October 13

Wednesday, October 27

Month 3: *Stuff That Needs To Be Said*, by John Pavlovitz

Stuff That Needs to Be Said About Life, Death, Grief, and Depression

Wednesday, November 10

Wednesday, November 24

Month 4: *Blueprint: the Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society*

Preface, Chapter 1: The Society Within Us, Chapter 2: Unintentional Communities

Wednesday, December 1*

Wednesday, December 15*

Month 5: *Blueprint: the Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society*

Chapter 3: Intentional Communities, Chapter 4: Artificial Communities

Wednesday, January 12

Wednesday, January 26

Month 6: *Blueprint: the Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society*

Chapter 5: First Comes Love, Chapter 6: Animal Attraction

Wednesday, February 9

Wednesday, February 23

Month 7: *Blueprint: the Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society*

Chapter 7: Animal Friends, Chapter 8: Friends and Networks

Wednesday, March 9

Wednesday, March 23

Month 8: *Blueprint: the Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society*

Chapter 9: One Way to be Social, Chapter 10: Remote Control

Wednesday, April 13

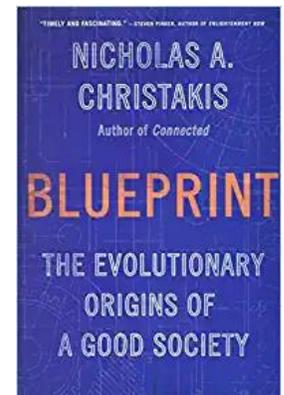
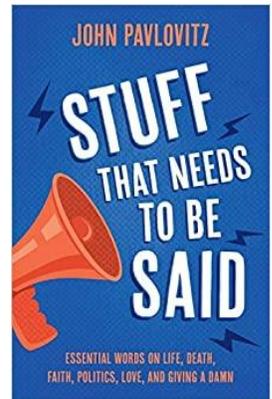
Wednesday, April 27

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

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

Wednesday, May 4*

Wednesday, May 18*



*Note: Most often the conversation groups will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. In December and May we will adjust to meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the Month due to holidays and schedules.

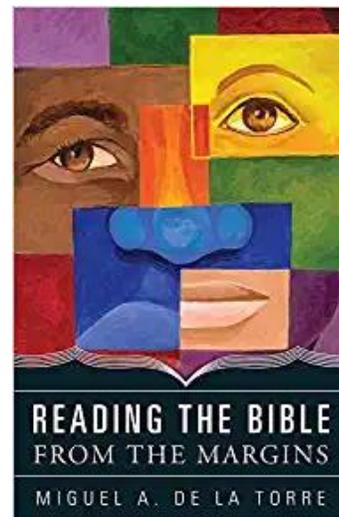
Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday, September 9, 9:30-10:30 a.m. outside at St. Michael's

This fall for the Thursday morning Bible studies we will be starting with Miguel De La Torre's book, *Reading the Bible from the Margins*. We will then move into 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.

In September and October we plan to meet outside at St. Michael's (either in the courtyard or on the fellowship hall patio), and will adjust to meeting indoors or online as we see what is happening with the weather and COVID-19 variants.

- September 9** *Reading the Bible from the Margins*,
Introduction and Chapter 1: Learning to Read
- September 16** *Reading the Bible from the Margins*,
Chapter 2: Reading the Bible from the Center
- September 23** *Reading the Bible from the Margins*,
Chapter 3: Unmasking the Biblical Justification of Racism and Classism
- September 30** *Reading the Bible from the Margins*,
Chapter 4: Unmasking the Biblical Justification of Sexism
- October 7** *Reading the Bible from the Margins*,
Chapter 5: Who do you say I am?
- October 14** *Reading the Bible from the Margins*,
Chapter 6: Jesus Saves
- October 21** **No Class—MEA break**
- October 28** *Reading the Bible from the Margins*,
Chapter 7: Can't We All Just Get Along
- November 4** 1 Kings 17:8-16 God feeds Elijah and the widow at Zarephath
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28 The once for all sacrifice of Christ
Mark 12:38-44 A widow's generosity reveals the hypocrisy of scribes
- November 11** Daniel 12:1-3 The deliverance of God's people at the end
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25 The way to God opened through Christ's death
Mark 13:1-8 The end and the coming of the Son
- November 18** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 The one coming with the clouds rules over all
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8 Glory to the one who made us a kingdom
John 18:33-37 The kingdom of Christ
- November 25** **No Class-Thanksgiving**
- December 2** Malachi 3:1-4 My messenger is a refiner and purifier
Baruch 5:1-9 (alt.) The return of scattered Israel
Luke 1:68-79 In the tender compassion of God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.
Philippians 1:3-11 A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ
Luke 3:1-6 Prepare the way of the Lord
- December 9** Zephaniah 3:14-20 Rejoice, the Lord is in your midst
Isaiah 12:2-6 In your midst is the Holy One of Israel
Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice, the Lord is near
Luke 3:7-18 One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire
- December 16** Micah 5:2-5a From Bethlehem comes a ruler
Luke 1:46b-55 You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly.
Psalm 80:1-7 (alt) Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
Hebrews 10:5-10 I have come to do your will
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55] Blessed are you among women / Magnificat
- December 23** **No Class-Christmas break**
- December 30** **No Class-Christmas break**



Music @ St. Michael's

Choir Schedules

Adult Choir	
Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
September 9, First Rehearsal Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall	September 12, both services September 19, 11:00 a.m. September 26, 8:45 a.m.
Adult Bells	
Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
September 8, First Rehearsal Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Balcony	September 19th, both services
Youth Choirs	
Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
September 8, First Rehearsals Wednesdays in the Courtyard Room 6:30-7:15pm Celebration Singers 7:30-8:15pm Spirit Choir	September 26th, both services
Youth Bells	
Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
September 8, First Rehearsals Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. Balcony	October 3rd, both services

Children's Choirs Information

Sing (and Ring) to the Lord a New Song

Cory Bock, Director of Children's Music

It is that time of year again. Summer has come to an end and another school year is beginning. At St. Michael's, children's music will continue as we sing (and ring) to the Lord new songs.

All students in grades 1-8 are welcome to join in the children's music groups. Each group will be involved in worship services by providing music or leading some part of our services.

In **Youth Bells** (grades 5-8), ringers will be introduced to ringing and learn various bell techniques. This group typically rings at both services on the 1st Sunday of each month.

The **Celebration Singers** (grades 1-4) and **Spirit Choir** (grades 5-8) work on vocal technique, learn about Lutheran worship and hymnody, and will also be introduced to drumming and play Orff instruments. These groups sing and/or assist in worship leadership on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

In order to provide more space, bell rehearsals will take place in the choir loft and the choirs will rehearse in the Courtyard Room. Face masks are required while in the building.

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 8

Youth Bells 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Celebration Singers 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Spirit Choir 7:30-8:15 p.m.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to the children's music email list, please contact Cory Bock via email cory@stmichaelselca.com

Adult Choir: St. Michael's Singers

A Service of Singing

Karen Wilkerson, Adult Choir Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rehearsal **THURSDAY September 9 at 6:30 to 8:00pm** Arrive MASKED as you enter the FELLOWSHIP HALL Not the choir room.

PRELUDE: We can rehearse together masked and with some distance. As a choir we are 98% vaccinated. In worship itself, we need to limit numbers of singers singing together. Due to the need to protect our unvaccinated children, or any who cannot receive the vaccination for other reasons. I am excited, it will work, and it will be wonderful. I promise!

LESSONS: We have learned some lessons this past 18+ months. As things move forward, our hope and prayer is to ease up on our restrictions as we go through the fall. I will be the voice who reminds you keep your mask over mouth and nose. I am ordering singers masks for all of you

PRAYERS: Come, Holy Spirit, breath of creation, sing through us. Open us to your presence and sing through us. Refresh and give life to what is exhausted and tired, and sing through us.

SERMON: We are blessed with amazing preachers at St. Michael's, sit tight ya'll.....they'll be preaching to the choir, and we need it too.

ANTHEM: We will sing in church right away on the **September 12, 8:45 service and the beginning of the 11:00am service.** It's Rally day. This is what we do.

PASSING of THE PEACE: Don't be shy about inviting new people to choir. We can still build. We really could use 4 or 5 more sopranos. ALL are welcome!

BENEDICTION: Blessed are you who sing scripture into our hearts with music even dementia remembers. Blessed are you who bear love where people seek grace. Your labor is not in vain and your faith bears Christ to all who come weary, or energized, in pain, or dancing for joy. God Bless You!

(liturgy adapted from the liturgy we received from Ali and Brad at our staff retreat)

Questions: contact Karen Wilkerson, director

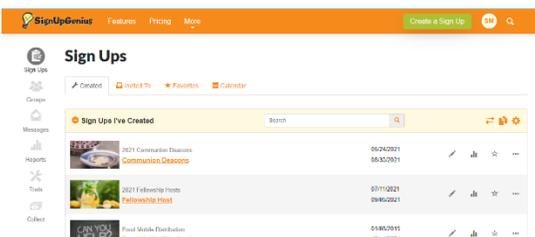
Some things we think you'd like to know

Busses in the Parking Lot

A local business is not able to park their busses in their home lot over the time of the State Fair so they contacted St. Michael's to rent out part of our parking lot between August 24—September 7. About 30 busses will be tightly parked and not used over that time. The departure of the busses on September 7th may cause some temporary congestion in our lot as drivers are transported to their busses.



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:

Providing sanctuary flowers Ushers Lectors

Communion assistants for outdoor worship

Fellowship Hosts for after services

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.

The Nursery is Hiring

Do you have a youth in your household that is 15 and is interested in working in the church's nursery this upcoming program year? If so, please have them sign-up for an interview by contacting youth@stmichaelselca.com

A Church at Work

Church Council Corner

The Church Council Met on Tuesday, August 10, 2021

- Brian Cihacek was elected to serve as Treasurer beginning in September as Kim Chapman transfers her membership to a congregation in Iowa. We give great thanks to Kim for her service at St. Michael's on Council and as Treasurer; and to Neal for his work with the Property Committee and having served as chair for four years.
- Council received initial information about property projects under review. This includes work on the exterior sanctuary walls due to water infiltration and the recoating of the interior sanctuary walls. Property will be bringing a fuller report and conversation at the September meeting.
- Following the Deep Listening training sessions held in July, the council hopes to connect with others in the congregation to listen and learn.
- The Council received updates on: Staff Retreat, Fall Programming, the Guatemala Team, the Refugee Resettlement Team, the Advocacy Team, and plans for the St. Michael's Get-Together on Sunday, August 22.
- **The earthquake and tropical rain storm hit Haiti in the days following the Council meeting. The pastors and Executive Committee allocated \$2000 from the Disaster Response Fund to go toward support of Haiti.**

2021 Budget Overview and Financial Update

	July Actual	July Budget	YTD Actual	Annual Budget
Income	\$48,041	\$65,134	\$466,425	\$812,713.44*
Expenses	\$57,225	\$66,981	\$446,111	\$812,713.44
Net Balance	-\$9174	-\$1,847	\$20,314	\$0.00

St. Michael's, like many congregations experiences a "slump" in giving during the summer months. The Finance Committee keeps an eye on this and looks at this in comparison to other years. We are tracking very similar to past years. You will note that our overall giving is consistent and staff and committees continue to monitor spending, which provides us with a balance at this time of the year. We do encourage all who are able to maintain consistency in giving throughout the year.

*At the Annual Meeting on January 24, 2021, the congregation approved use of the reserve funds of \$46,409.00, if needed, to meet the budget at the end of the year. This is included in the Annual Approved budget of \$812,713.44. Through July we have not had to utilize any of these funds.

The Congregation, Council, and Finance Committee felt comfortable with this due to the consistent giving of the congregation, the stewardship of expenses by staff and committees, and being able to transfer funds into the reserve fund at the end of 2020.

SMART Update (St. Michael's Assessment & Reopening Team)

The team met on August 2 and August 26 to monitor COVID-19 in our communities and in the state. As many of you are aware, the Delta variant of COVID-19 is creating challenges as churches, schools, and communities plan for the fall.

Current procedures are staying in place, and we continue to adapt to create an effective program for the fall. Stay tuned to the Friday Flyer and bulletins for important updates on any changes or new opportunities.

- **Coffee Hour/Fellowship Time:** when food or beverages are being served between worship services it will be outside in the courtyard or patios. When the weather changes we may need to pause coffee hour.
- **Sunday Morning Religion in Life:** will be paused in September. We anticipate that we will have evening learning opportunities in October, November and December (with a special Advent series) to continue to offer adult education. This is due to limited space and capacity of rooms on Sunday mornings.
- **7th-9th Grade Confirmation:** will take place on Wednesday evenings to allow for a space large enough for the youth (and adult mentors/leaders when they attend).
- **The St. Michael's Singers** (adult choir): will be meeting on Thursday nights so that they are able to utilize the fellowship hall and sanctuary for rehearsal spaces.
- Information for Sunday School can be found in the Children, Youth, and Family pages.

Thank you for your on-going commitment to keeping people as safe and healthy as possible.

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

Got something for the October Messenger?

The *Messenger* submission deadline is Friday, September 17 .

Making the Messenger Green

If you prefer to read your upcoming issues of St. Michael's monthly *Messenger* newsletter on our church website instead of having a paper copy mailed to you, please notify the church office. Another option is to receive the *Messenger* via e-mail. Just let the church office know your preference.



St. Michael's Staff Directory

St. Michael's Lutheran

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Jill Schendel

Pianist

Karen Wilkerson

Adult Choir Director

Charles Preis

Adult Bell Choir Director

Cory Bock

Youth Choir Director

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Wenshuai Zhang

Children's Choir Accompanist

Kaia Zeigler

Nursery Care Provider

Elliot Polzin

Custodian



St Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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