

# St. Michael News

## Upcoming Events

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**  
February 4 at 7:00 AM

**GOD'S KIDS WORSHIP**  
February 5 at 10:45 am

**GATHERING FOR PRAYER**  
February 15 at 7:00 pm  
February 16 at 1:00 pm  
For more information call  
Christine Harrison at 625-4040.

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT**  
February 18 at 6:00 pm

**KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE**  
February 23 at 7:00 pm  
See back cover

**ESM 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
DINNER & AUCTION**  
March 24



**February's Family Game Night**

**Saturday, February 18**

**Food, Folks, & Fun**

Everyone's Welcome (ages 0-99+)

◆ Dinner      ◆ Card Games  
◆ Music      ◆ Board Games

**Bring a can of fruit to donate to the Food Bank**

**Time:** 6:00 pm (After the 5:00 service)  
**Place:** The Family Life Center (gym) @ St. Michael Lutheran Church

Please, Sign-up before February 16<sup>th</sup> at [StMichaelFamilyGameNight@gmail.com](mailto:StMichaelFamilyGameNight@gmail.com) or the Sign-up Sheet



**God's Kids Worship on February 5:** This special worship service is designed for students in grades 1-5. They will meet in room 24 from 10:45 - 11:45 am. Each worship time will conclude with a small group time to discuss what they have learned.

**ST. MICHAEL WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP:** We will meet on Thursday, February 16, at St. Michael at 10:00 AM. Call Carol Weide at 672-3530 with any questions.



**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST:** Join us for breakfast followed by devotions and prayer on February 4 at 7:00 AM. *Hope to see you there!*



## Gathering for Prayer

Both Scripture and history show us that there is great power when God's people unite in prayer. On Wednesday, February 15, from 7:00 – 8:00 pm, and Thursday, February 16, from 1:00 – 2:00 pm, we will gather together and pray for the church, our leaders, our members, and our ministries. You are invited to join us as together we commit to pray, watching as God pours out blessings in ways we never imagined...for where prayer is focused, power comes.

If praying with others isn't something you have done often or if it makes you feel uncomfortable, Gathering for Prayer will be a safe, comfortable atmosphere as you will be led step-by-step through the process of praying together.



## **“I will go to God...the Source of ALL my joy.” Psalm 43:4 NLT**

In my four years in full-time church work, I have learned that often times, no matter how hard I try, I can't control the outcome of something. What I mean is I can lay the foundation, but ultimately God is the builder. That may drive you crazy, it does me sometimes, but it also takes the pressure off. As Lutherans we believe that the Holy Spirit does the work through us. We can't do it. Only He can!

One of my mentors often says that his greatest joy in ministry is when he does something that he gets no credit for. That often seemed a little strange to me, until I realized that the most gratifying thing in our Christian lives is when God does something that you can't take credit for. The truth is that most of the time when good things happen it's in spite of us not because of us.

I think now, more than ever, is the time to let God work in our lives and to reflect and listen to where the Holy Spirit is leading us. We are in the midst of change at St. Michael, and God is going to do great things. We talked in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January about being patient, even when it is tough. (The sermon can be heard at [http://stmichaellcms.org/home/component/option,com\\_wrapper/Itemid,8/](http://stmichaellcms.org/home/component/option,com_wrapper/Itemid,8/).) One of the best ways we can move forward together is through prayer. I thought about the famous serenity prayer:

***God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I can. And the wisdom to know the difference.***

What if all of us were praying this daily? Imagine the difference it would make in our lives if we could realize that God is continuing to build in our lives, that while we plant seeds, He is the One Who grows them. May your February be blessed as we serve together.

In Jesus, *Pastor Ben*

Friends in Christ—

I wanted to say how grateful I am for my time in your midst. I appreciate the years together growing as disciples and serving the community as I proclaimed the Gospel to you. I'm excited in knowing that all of those things will always be true at St. Michael Lutheran Church. May God continue to bless His church!

*I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you have refreshed the hearts of the saints. Philemon 1:4-7*

God's Richest Blessings to each of you,  
*Pastor Matt*

A NOTE OF



Over \$3,000 was received on behalf of St. Michael members in 2011 from the Thrivent Foundation Choice Dollars program. Individuals with qualifying Thrivent policies can choose a Lutheran organization to receive these funds. Funds must be designated by March 31, 2012. St. Michael has an Advocate committee that will distribute these funds to ministries within St. Michael. Contact one of your Thrivent Advocates—Jerry Egly, Dave & Karen Kuehnert, Ed Treace, Dale Bultemeier, Sue Krause—or visit [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) for more information or to find out if you have Choice Dollars available.

**PAPER RECYCLING:** Thank you to everyone who has been helping St. Michael earn money and recycling paper at the same time! We are earning about \$20 per month, which doesn't seem like a lot, but we were paying \$25 per month to recycle. The more paper you bring in, the more money we can make. Please do not use plastic bags or boxes to bring in your recyclables—just paper bags. Thanks again!

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and many cards we received during Nila's illness and passing. You will never be forgotten. May God bless you all. Dick Shew

I wish to thank all the kind members who sent me Christmas cards. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness. Lois Arnold

Thomas Obediah Chisholm, born in 1866 in a Kentucky log cabin, lived a very “average” life. He started as a school teacher, but unstable health caused him to take what jobs he could including journalism, insurance, and evangelistic work. Thomas also wrote poems which he often sent to his musician friend, William Runyan. William was so affected by one of the poems that he put the words to music. We now know the song as the hymn, *Great is Thy Faithfulness*.

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning from Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest; sun, moon and stars in their courses above;  
Join with all nature in manifold witness, to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth; Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow; blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!*

Thomas later admitted that there was nothing great or miraculous that had happened to inspire the poem. He was simply inspired by one of his favorite passages: *His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness* (Lamentations 3:22-23).

At the age of 75, he wrote:

“My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me on until now. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness.”



“GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.”

LAMENTATIONS 3:23

We can learn a lot from “average” Tom. We can look for GOD’s greatness each and every day, which is the same for all of us regardless of our calling or “status.” We can learn to live humbly and not be surprised at how God uses our “simple” witness. We can learn to sing/write/speak boldly of God’s faithfulness in our lives...to Him be the glory!!!

Praying that you see and confess God’s greatness in your life! **Stephanie**

### Music Notes:

- “Average” people needed to help behind the scenes with altar guild, ushers, greeters and technology. If we haven’t asked you, we’re sorry. Would you please contact us at 432-2033? Thanks!
- Musicians are always needed to fill in with vocal or instrumental solos during our worship services. Please contact Stephanie Maxson if you are interested in helping.
- Mark your calendars now for our mid-week Lenten services starting with Ash Wednesday on February 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00 pm. Putting aside an extra hour once a week to worship is one way to help prepare your heart and mind as we ponder Jesus’ great sacrifice for us.

**RESERVE A DATE FOR 2012 ALTAR FLOWERS:** Call Mickey Buschman at 432-1265 to reserve a date. This is a nice way to remember a loved one or a special date.



ALTAR FLOWERS

### **REGISTER EARLY FOR 2012-2013 PRESCHOOL!**

Registration packets are available in the church office. There are three classes...

<b>3 year old</b>	T/Th, 8:30 - 11:00 am	3 by 8/1/2012
<b>4 year old</b>	M/W/F, 8:30 - 11:00 am	4 by 8/1/2012
<b>4/5 year old</b>	M-Th, 12:30 - 3:00 pm	4 by 1/31/2012



*Baptized  
in the  
Name of Jesus*

**BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS** will be celebrated the weekend of February 11/12 for the following children through age 12: Baylee Ackmann, Roman Bruns, Isabella Campbell, Andrew Deeter, Sarah Fredrick, Chance Gumm, Hayden Higdon, Alexander Huston, William LaLonde, Cassadie Lorenz, Carson Nix, Kelsey Nutter, and Levi Selking.

Would you be interested in sponsoring bulletins for one of our special services? We will be purchasing full color bulletins for Easter, Confirmation, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Eve. Sponsorships range from \$25 to \$100. Call Tammy for more information.



### The Sanctum

Every Wednesday night all **High School youth** are invited to come to this event just for you! Sanctum means "a sacred, holy, safe place." And that's how I want everyone to feel when they come on Wednesdays. We hang out together, play in the gym, eat snacks, and spend time in God's Word. So come and check it out from 7-9 on Wednesday☺

### The Cell

This is our program for all Junior Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades). We meet two times a month from 6-9pm. The evening is constructed in the following way:

6:00 - 6:30	Hang and play in Gym
6:30 - 7:00	Eat dinner together
7:00 - 8:00	Group-building games & large group games
8:00 - 9:00	Small group assignments & Bible study time (different guest speaker each time)



The Cell has been very exciting so far. We have been having about 30 kids come each time. Each youth gets a shirt and Bible the first time they come. We also have senior youth leading the small groups and leading the small group Bible study time. It is extremely cool to see senior youth leading junior youth as they discuss God's Word. Praise the LORD!!! **Upcoming Cells: February 11 & 25**



**ATTENTION: All Parents of Children or Youth!!** I have a monthly Youth Culture Newsletter available for you to pick up and read. It is located on the youth bulletin board across from the confirmation pictures. This newsletter will update you on what is going on in today's culture that affects your kids. The January newsletter points out that a current trend alert is kids huffing Freon to get high. This is extremely dangerous and deadly but REAL. So PLEASE stop by and take one so you can stay current☺

**FYI – My office has moved—you can find me in Pastor Bob's old office. I will be gone from March 1-15 on a Mission Trip to Thailand.**

### **COMING SOON!!!!!!!**

**Junior Youth Lock-in – Laser Tag, basketball, pizza, no sleep, fun, JESUS!!!! Stay tuned for more details!!**

Your Bro in Christ, §Scott Hedtke

## Invest in Members in Mission 2012

### *Help support the three mission trips planned for 2012:*

### **Alabama, Ireland, Jamaica**

THEREFORE  
*go*  
AND MAKE  
DISCIPLES OF ALL  
*nations*

MATTHEW 28:19

### **How it works:**

- Decide how much you want to donate and remove the contact card from the envelope with the corresponding donation
- Complete the contact card and return it with your donation to the office or Scott Hedtke or Karen Kuehnert. After your donation is received, your dividend coupons (explained below) will be mail to you.

	<b>\$1 - \$100</b>	<b>\$101 - \$200</b>	<b>\$201 - \$300</b>
Coupon for free Ash Wednesday dinner for your family	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Coupon for free Easter breakfast for your family	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Free Mike's Car wash	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
One pound of cookies from the Cookie Walk <b>OR</b> one free loaf of Justice Bread	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
One free Christian resource from the Information Center (book selection will vary)	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>

***For I was hungry and you gave me  
something to eat,  
I was thirsty and you gave me  
something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you invited me in.***

Matthew 25:35

Do you have a heart for the homeless? Would you like the opportunity to share the hope of Jesus to homeless women and children? Do you have a smile and words of encouragement to share? Would you like to grow in your faith with other women working side by side? Is God calling you to step out of your comfort zone to serve Him?

Karen Kuehnert, along with Food for the Poor, is looking for a team of ten ladies to travel to Jamaica to share hope and the love of Jesus. The tentative travel date is October 21-26.

Join Karen on Sunday, February 19, following late service to learn more about her Jamaica experience and this trip's agenda, cost and current fundraising opportunities. Contact Karen if you are interested at [karen.kuehnert@stmichaellcms.org](mailto:karen.kuehnert@stmichaellcms.org) or call the church office at 432-2033. Attending this informational meeting does not mean a commitment is made.

## **St Michael Women's Ministry Scrapbooking Saturday on May 5**

*This event will benefit the ladies that will be going on the Jamaica Mission trip in October.*

We are looking for ladies to help organize, identify vendors, design tickets, develop the food and snack menus, provide food, be hostesses, obtain attendance prizes, etc. We want this to be an exciting event that will be advertised to the public.

Our first organizational meeting is Wednesday, February 1, at 7pm. Even if you do not scrapbook we need you on the team!! For more information, contact Jill Raines at [davidandjill@live.com](mailto:davidandjill@live.com) or Karen Kuehnert at [karen.kuehnert@stmichaellcms.org](mailto:karen.kuehnert@stmichaellcms.org).

*Scrapbookers and scrapbooking buddies,  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
and begin spreading the word!*

### ***It's Not Too Late to Join a Small Group!***

#### **Growth Group sign-ups are in the main hallway...**

- **Women's Study...James: Mercy Triumphs with Beth Moore.** Groups will meet for 8 weeks on **Tuesday** mornings from 9-11am, beginning February 7; and **Thursday** evenings from 5:30-7pm, beginning February 9. Register by January 26 to get the book for \$18. **The book cost after January 26 is \$23.**
- **Couples Bible Study...Digging Deeper into Luke and Doing Faith @ Home:** Did you know that 69-94% of evangelical children are leaving the church shortly after they graduate from high school? Dig deeper into the study of the Book of Luke and learn strategies to live a 24/7 Christian lifestyle, not a one-hour at church only Christianity. Learn strategies that can be practiced at home and share with loved ones. The Scriptures are clear that the home is where faith is nurtured and passed from generation to generation (Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 2 Timothy 1:5). We cannot "outsource" spiritual growth! Contact Tim and Stephanie Maxson at [tmaxson@frontier.com](mailto:tmaxson@frontier.com). Meet once a month on **Fridays** at 7pm.
- **"50 Yard Dash" through the Old Testament with an eye to the history.** Pastor Bob and Diana Hedtke will facilitate this group, which meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays from 1:30-3:30pm. JUMP IN NOW! Contact Pastor Hedtke at [robert.hedtke@gmail.com](mailto:robert.hedtke@gmail.com).
- **"D6: Impress"** with Scott and Zara Hedtke. Learn ways to engage adults, parents, and children in the Bible for the fulfillment of God's command expressed in Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Contact Scott at [dcescotth@gmail.com](mailto:dcescotth@gmail.com).
- **Shining Stars Girls' Bible Study:** This group, facilitated by Karen Kuehnert, for girls in 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet again on **Fridays** from 4-5pm for 8 weeks, February 10<sup>th</sup> - March 30<sup>th</sup>. "A Girl After God's Own Heart" by Elizabeth George will be the basis for discussion along with journaling of prayers. The activity cost is \$10.
- **"Coffee and Conversation"** continues at Mocha Lounge on **Sunday** mornings from 9:30-10:30am. Contact Mary Leinger at [indylein@comcast.net](mailto:indylein@comcast.net) for details.

## Serving in February 2012 at St. Michael

		Sponsorships		Sonrise Ministry	
<b>Altar Guild</b>		Marge Jesse, Linda Gibson, Jaime McNamara			
<b>Flowers</b>	4/5 11/12 18/19 25/26	Phil and Ivy Gray OPEN OPEN <i>No flowers are placed on the altar for Lent</i>	Gary and Debbie Gotsch Randy and Jan Fillmore OPEN OPEN		
		8:00		10:45	
<b>Acolytes</b>	4/5 11/12 18/19 25/26 3-3/4	Carlee Kiefer Rhiannon Powell Savanna Stuteville Devan Codling Madison Morey	Nathaniel Carmody, Andrew Faux Bryce Hoffman, Lily Schenkel Avery Sparks, Kevin Tarbet Katherine Fredrick, David Hein Carlie Magdich, Cameron Weikart	Mallory Harker, Lily Hoffmann Katherine Lael, Emma Pechota Keegan Smothermon, Jessica Sobieski Tristin Carden, Joey Deeter Mallory Harker, Hannah Schultz	
<b>Children's Church</b>	4/5 11/12 18/19 25/26	OPEN Kim Bruns Tera Klutz, Lisa Meeks Meghan Martin	Jen Ackmann Jama Fry, Jennifer Nix Kait Scriven Jane Sieber, Marilyn Crum	Michelle Bade Mary Nichols, Lynette Selking Alissa Stalter Adrienne Clendenen	
<b>Elders</b>		Dale Bultemeier	Jerry Riedel	Paul Selking	
<b>Greeters</b>	4/5 11/12 18/19  25/26	Pat and Marsha Franklin Ellie Bolenbaugh John and Sue Baker  Clint and Linda Lewis	Bud and Marie Siegfried Patty and Steve Gerdom Jerry and Mary Riedel  Dorothy Smith	Dave and Marsha Carden Janice Pekrul & Donna Nave Gary & Deb Gotsch, Georgia Minnick, and Robin Miser Sandy Hopper	
<b>Ushers</b>		Larry Springer Murray Mendenhall	Chris Hupe	David Crow, John Olry, Greg Caudill, Walt Hess	
<b>Witness Speeches</b>	4/5 11/12 18/19 25/26 3-3/4	OPEN  Melissa Starke	McKenna Meyer  Maddie Chrzan	Aliya Raney  Joey Deeter  Hannah Schultz	



### END OF LIFE WORKSHOPS

You cannot escape it!  
So how do you deal with it?

Sponsored by: Fort Wayne Area Lutherans for Life  
Co-sponsors: Allen County Right to Life; Cross Connections; St. Michael Stephen Ministers  
Location: Allen County Library, Downtown, Meeting Room C, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

February 9: **Planning for Advance Directives**  
Heidi Adair, Attorney certified as Estate Planning & Administration Specialist

March 15: **Military End of Life Issues**  
Leslie Haines, Executive Director and Founder of Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries Inc.

April 26: **Hospice and Care at End of Life**  
Karen Kosberg, Parkview Hospice Chaplain

#### **Organ Transplants**

Dr. Charles "Fred" Haigh, heart transplant recipient and speaker for the Indiana Organ Procurement organization

More information is available on the information table,  
[www.lutheransforlifefortwayne.org](http://www.lutheransforlifefortwayne.org),  
or Dennis Brink at 672-0848.



**Laugh away the winter blahs!** Attend the Cross Connections comedy event, "It's a Spring Thing" on March 1 at the Marriott Grand Marquis Ballroom on Washington Center Road. Doors will open at 6 pm with dinner beginning at 7 pm. Christian comedian Jeff Allen will follow the meal. Cross Connections is requesting a donation of \$75 per person for the event. For information and reservations, please call Matt Konow at 744-3228 x337 (days) or Peggy Courtney x327 (evenings). Reservation deadline is February 22. Cross Connections is a Christ-centered nonprofit counseling ministry supported by your congregation.



#### **Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage**

Southwest Lutheran Church, located ¼ mile south of Homestead High School at 5120 Homestead Road, is hosting a Marriage Enrichment Seminar titled Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage. This is 2-day event on Friday/Saturday, February 24/25. The cost is \$35 couple/\$18 single and includes snacks, continental breakfast and CHILDCARE. Call 866-525-2844 to register or go to [www.laughyourway.com](http://www.laughyourway.com). For more information call the Southwest Lutheran Church office at 436-4474

#### **JANUARY MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

**Marriage:** Sarah Minke and Andrew Smith  
**Transferred Out:** Monica Krause  
**Death:** Nila Shew

**St. Michael Lutheran Church**  
**2131 Getz Road**  
**Fort Wayne, IN 46804**

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## **EMMANUEL-ST. MICHAEL NEWS**

FOR MORE INFO...[WWW.ESMEAGLES.COM](http://WWW.ESMEAGLES.COM)

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### **Kindergarten Open House**

If you have a child who will be ready to enroll in kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year, or if you would just like to explore the options available at ESM, plan to join us at the Getz Road Campus on Thursday, February 23, at 7:00 pm. Future kindergarteners will enjoy activities with the kindergarten teachers while parents learn about the caring family, strong academics, and faith building experiences at Emmanuel-St. Michael. Free childcare is also available for siblings.



**Christian School**

#### **CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!!**

[www.stmichaellcms.org](http://www.stmichaellcms.org)

- ⇒ **Sermons**
- ⇒ **Interactive Calendar**
- ⇒ **Birthdays**
- ⇒ **Newsletter**
- ⇒ **Current Events**



#### **NIV Study Bibles Available** (In Church Office)

- Paperback for \$15; hardback for \$35
- Children's Faith Alive Bible for \$20

Bibles include study notes and Scripture references; Words of Christ in red letters (adult Bibles only); concordance; maps, charts, diagrams, and illustrations; and introductions and outlines for each book of the Bible.

Did you know that you could have the newsletter emailed to you or read it online at [www.stmichaellcms.org](http://www.stmichaellcms.org). If this option appeals to you, send the office an email ([tammy@stmichaellcms.org](mailto:tammy@stmichaellcms.org)) indicating that you would like to be taken off the newsletter mailing list. The office will send you an email to let you know when it is available.