

St. Michael News

Upcoming Events

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
January 7 at 7:00 AM

GOD'S KIDS WORSHIP
January 8 at 10:45 am
See page 5 for more details

GATHERING FOR PRAYER
January 18 at 7:00 pm
January 19 at 1:00 pm
For more information call
Christine Harrison at 625-4040.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT
January 21 at 6:00 pm
See article on front page

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE
January 25 at 7:00 pm
See article on front page

**ESM 4th ANNUAL
DINNER & AUCTION**
March 24

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Family Game Night

with The Good News Puppets

Food, Folks, & Fun

- ◆ Dinner
- ◆ Puppets
- ◆ Board games
- ◆ Card games

Bring a can of fruit to donate to the Food Bank

Everyone's Welcome (ages 0-99+)

Date: Saturday, January 21, 2012
Time: 6:00 pm (after the 5:00 service)
Place: The Family Life Center (gym)

Menu

- Caesar Salad
- Baked Ziti
- Bread Sticks
- Assorted Desserts

Good-will Offering

RSVP: Sign-up sheet • Email: StMichaelsFamilyGameNight@gmail.com • Phone: 456-0164



Get your devotions online or on your mobile device:

<http://sites.cph.org/portals/>

Emmanuel-St. Michael Kindergarten Open House

Are you exploring educational options for your child? It's not too early to start thinking about how you can provide the best education for your child and fulfill God's command of training up a child in the way he should go. Your school, Emmanuel-St. Michael, is designed to help you equip your children with a solid foundation of faith and quality academic instruction. Mark your calendar for the ESM Kindergarten Open House. This is an informal opportunity to learn more about the school and what it can provide for your child and family.

If you have a child who will be 5 years old by August 1, you are invited to attend the Open House at the Getz Road Campus on January 25 at 7:00 pm. While parents attend the open house, teachers and future students will have fun doing hands-on activities. Free child care is available for siblings. Parents of younger students are also welcome to attend for an early chance to explore options and gather information. For more information visit esmEagles.com or call the school office at 422-6712.

"When the time had fully come, God sent His Son..." Galatians 4:4

Happy New Year!

I'm excited to share a variety of things we'll be focusing on in 2012 but at the top of my list is our immersion into the Gospel of Luke. As you may already be aware, 2012 will be "A Year with Jesus" as we look at every word of Luke's Gospel. It will be a wonderful experience as we spend an entire year together as a congregation going through all of Jesus' life.

We will work our way through Luke's Gospel in chronological order, taking occasional detours in Lent and Advent, so we're reading about those events of the season at the proper time. Here's the listing for January if you want to read ahead:

January 7/8	Jesus in the Temple at Age 12	Luke 2:41-52
January 14/15	John the Baptist Prepares the Way	Luke 3:1-20
January 21/22	Baptism and Genealogy of Jesus	Luke 3:21-38
January 28/29	Temptation of Jesus	Luke 4:1-13



We will have a variety of resources to help make this year in the Gospel of Luke especially fruitful. We will have growth groups that are shaped around the information we're hearing in the weekend worship services, a discussion guide with questions and comments for you to use at home during the week, and a variety of materials on Luke's Gospel available to be used in your small group as well. You'll hear and receive more information about this as the year unfolds.

If you are interested in reading a single book on Luke's Gospel, I can absolutely recommend one by Michael Card, the musician and author who presented a concert at St Michael a few years ago: "Luke: The Gospel of Amazement." After the first 30 or so pages giving background to Luke the author and the major themes of the book, it is the best single resource I know of going through Luke's Gospel. It is devotional in nature, yet shares many interesting insights often found in more academic commentaries. Local bookstore will likely have a copy, as well as online retailers.

Finally, I've heard many positive comments about our One Call Now system. We are working hard to find the best ways to get timely information about our congregation to each person. If you'd prefer to receive this information another way or would like a cell phone or different number to be utilized, please contact Tammy at tammy@stmichaellcms.org or at the church office at 432-2033.

God's Richest Blessings in 2012! *Pastor Matt*

[Luke 19:10](#)

Well, I've started retirement. And do you know what I've discovered? I've discovered that retirement is a BIG change for me. When I was at St. Michael, I only had to work one hour a week. Now that I'm retired and at home...Manna has me working every day! How I dream about those good old days when I was at St. Michael, enjoying the easy life!

I want to thank all of you for the many kind words that you have shared with me over the last few weeks, as well as the wonderful cards and gifts. It has truly been a joy to serve at St. Michael.

I'd write more, but Manna just called. She wants me to bring her a cup of coffee and then cook dinner.

God bless all of you, and have a happy New Year! With Love, Pastor Bob

I was thinking about the New Year and how things are going to be different in 2012. Every year we start out with resolutions, don't we? We decide that we are going to do X,Y, and Z. Its what we do next that really matters though, isn't it? Here is a story I found that gave some perspective to this:

A boy told his father, "Dad, if three frogs were sitting on a limb that hung over a pool, and one frog decided to jump off into the pool, how many frogs would be left on the limb?" The dad replied, "Two." "No," the son replied. "There's three frogs and one decides to jump, how many are left?" The dad said, "Oh, I get it, if one decides to jump, the others would too. So there are none left." The boy said, "No dad, the answer is three. The frog only DECIDED to jump."

Sometimes we are like that frog, aren't we? We decide to jump, but we never quite get around to doing it. At St. Michael, I think our resolutions should be that we decide to jump and we do it! Lets jump this year together.

I am not sure what God is calling you to do this year, but I am sure its something special. Ephesians 2:10 tells us: *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* Some of you are reading this and saying, "But, pastor, I am not a leader, what you are asking me to do I can't do."

S. I. McMillen, in his book "None of These Diseases," tells a story of a young woman who wanted to go to college, but her heart sank when she read the question on the application blank that asked, "Are you a leader?" Being both honest and conscientious, she wrote, "No," and returned the application expecting the worst. To her surprise, she received this letter from the college: "Dear Applicant: A study of the application forms reveals that this year our college will have 1,452 new leaders. We are accepting you because we feel it is imperative that they have at least one follower."

Whether you are a leader or a follower, or somewhere in between, my prayer for you this year is this (pray to our heavenly Father as you read this): Lord, I ask that this year You use me. Lord, stretch me in ways I haven't even thought of yet. Lord, help me to know Your will, that it may be done. Lord, I ask You to bless our congregation this year. As we grow, change, build, and encourage one another, help us to do it all for You! In Jesus' Name, amen.

Looking forward to "jumping" into 2012 with you, *Pastor Ben*

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe.
Ephesians 1:18-19

Happy 2012 everyone! Starting a new year gives the opportunity to look forward, set goals, and think about the future. As we look forward, the words from Ephesians remind us of the perspective we should have—we should keep the eyes of our HEART on Jesus. Why? So that whatever happens, we will be focused on the HOPE, RICHES, and POWER that come from our great God.

The song "Open the Eyes of My Heart" by Paul Baloche sets the words of Ephesians 1 to music.

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You.
To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory,
Pour out Your pow'r and love,
As we sing holy, holy, holy.*

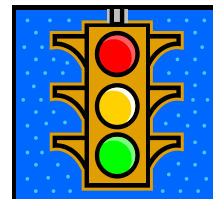
We are seeing with the eyes of our heart when we can live a life filled with joy and peace despite what our "human" eyes can see. We can be confident of the words in [Romans 8:38-39](#) that **nothing** can separate us from God's love. No matter what is happening around us we can be assured of the truths and promises of God's Word, and with our eyes focused upwards, we can sing *holy, holy, holy...Lord, I want to see You!*

Music Notes

- Choir starts again on Wednesday, January 4th. Men's Choir rehearses at 6:30 pm and the adult choir meets at 7:00 pm. We will be starting with new music, so this is a great time to join!
- Harmony Ringers and Youth Bells will be meeting again on Monday, January 9th.
- Flute choir will begin rehearsals again on Thursday, January 5th, at 1:00 pm. We also rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Dust off your instrument and come join us!
- If you are interested in sharing your musical gifts in one of our St. Michael worship services, give Stephanie a call at 432-2033.

We sincerely thank all our choirs, instrumentalists, and handbell ringers for the beautiful music that they have shared with us this most holy season. Special thanks to the following individuals for their dedication to our Music Ministry: Stephanie Maxson, Worship Director; Karen Manges, Organist; Celine Newman, Handbell Director; and Dee Dee Beights, Brass Director. We give God the glory for blessing us will all our gifted musicians.

JUNIOR YOUTH QUAKE MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, AT 11:45 IN YOUTH ROOM! IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING YOU NEED TO BE AT THIS MEETING!! The Youth Quake is for all 6th-8th graders and is held in Indianapolis on January 20-22. We will meet at church at 5pm on Friday, January 20, and return on Sunday, January 22, at 2pm.

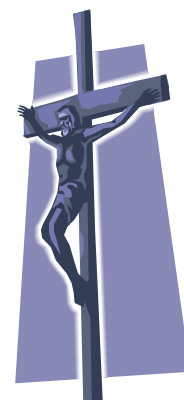


The Sanctum

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 (6th-8th 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

January 14 & 28
February 11 & 25



ATTENTION: All Parents of Children or Youth!! A monthly Youth Culture Newsletter is available for you to pick up from the youth bulletin board across from the Confirmation pictures. This newsletter will update you on what is going on in today's culture that is affecting your kids. For example, the December newsletter points out a current trend alert of kids soaking gummy bears in vodka in the refrigerator so they can get drunk fast. PLEASE stop by and take one so you can stay current☺

Your Bro in Christ, **Scott Hedtke**



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS will be celebrated the weekend of January 7/8 for the following children through age 12: Cameron and Kennedy Carper; Kaitlynn Crow; Caroline Elmer; Haidyn Faux; Olivia Fry; Alec Grinsfelder; Gloria Maxson; Carson and Mason Oetting; Austin Panning; Gretchen Raney; Lilith Schenkel; Matthew Scholz; Matthew Stuteville; Corbin Weible.

SPREE Developmental Gymnastics classes for boys and girls ages 3-6 years old are held weekly on Wednesdays from 11:00-11:45 am at St. Michael through May. **Registration is open to the public!** For information regarding fees and registration procedures, contact Coach Judy Klopfenstein at 403-5342 or Spreegym@yahoo.com

Did you know that the 2012 sermons are all on the book of Luke? Would you like to enhance your personal 2012 study on Luke? Are you a Life Group Facilitator looking for a Bible study to do in 2012? Below is a short list of Bible studies and commentaries on the book of Luke to check out:

- **Luke: Life Change Series**, A NavPress Bible Study
- **Luke: Life Lessons** with Max Lucado
- **Luke: Lessons from Jesus** by Bill Hybels, Kevin G. Harney, Sherry Harney
- **World's Only Hope: A Study in Luke**, Geared for Growth Bible Studies
- **A Walk Thru the Bible of Luke: A Savior for the World**

A suggested commentary and great companion for a Luke study is **Luke: The Gospel of Amazement** by Michael Card.

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Baptisms: Emalee and Erikka Miser

New Members: Milda Bishton; Jeffrey Coleman; Dorothy Collins; Christina, Rodney, Samuel, and Nicholas Davenport; Audrey, Olivia, Patirica, and Stephen Gerdorn; Connie and Jeff Hanson; Sandra Hopper; Karen Houser; Dolores Liddy; Heidi and Ricky Marks; Georgie Minnick; Robin, Emalee, and Erikka Miser; Aydin Moore; Donna Nave; Christine, Corbin, and Gavin Weible; Ally Wirkus

I want to thank everyone for the nice Christmas cards and for thinking about me at Holiday time. They were greatly appreciated! Eula Marhenke

The women of our congregation are involved in many ministries. These include service projects, Altar Guild, Bible studies, small groups of various kinds, and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). The LWML, recognized as the official women's organization of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, enables our women to be better equipped as women of God through:

- Lutheran Women's Quarterly magazine provides inspiration, Bible studies, mission project reports and ideas for women of the church;
- Zone Events and retreats provide fellowship with other women, inspire, educate and offer service projects;
- District and international conventions provide training, equipping, and selecting mission projects;
- Opportunities to contribute to mission projects such as prison ministries, orphans in Haiti, people with cancer, people with disabilities, etc. More than 100 million dollars has been gathered since founding of LWML in 1942! The MITE BOX is MIGHTY!



Continue to save your mites as you have in the past. We will no longer receive monthly offerings. In 2012, we will receive an offering for mites at the door on the weekend of Women's Ministry emphasis. Everyone will have the opportunity to contribute to the mission collection: 75 percent for local district projects and 25 percent for international projects. Make it a family effort. Find a fairly large container to save change from your mite box. Watch the fund grow until we have the BIG collection. Pray for mission projects. Let's see what GOD can do through YOU!

Mary Nichols, LWML Representative

New Growth Group sign-ups will be found 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 **Wednesday** evenings from 5:30-7pm, beginning February 8. Register by January 30 to get the book for \$18. **The book cost after January 30 is \$25.**
- **Couples Bible Study...Digging Deeper into Luke** with Tim and Stephanie Maxson as facilitators. Learn ways to engage adults, parents, and children in the Bible for the fulfillment of God's command expressed in Deuteronomy 6:4-9. 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 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 1:30-3:30pm. Open to anyone. Contact Pastor Hedtke at 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. *More details to come.*
- **Shining Stars Girls' Bible Study:** This group, facilitated by Karen Kuehnert, for girls in 2nd-5th grade will meet again on **Fridays** from 4-5pm for 8 weeks, February 10th - March 30th. "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.

THEREFORE
go
 AND MAKE
 DISCIPLES OF ALL
nations.
MATTHEW 28:19

Invest in Members in Mission 2012
Help support the three mission trips planned for 2012:
 Alabama, Ireland, Jamaica

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.

Dividend Coupons are based on donation levels

- **Donation of \$1 to \$100 will receive:**
 - A coupon for a free Ash Wednesday dinner for your family
 - A coupon for a free Easter breakfast for your family
- **Donation of \$101 to \$200 will receive:**
 - A coupon for a free Ash Wednesday dinner for your family
 - A coupon for a free Easter breakfast for your family
 - A free Mike's Car wash
 - One lb. of cookies from the Cookie Walk **OR** one free loaf of Justice Bread
- **Donation of \$201 to \$300 will receive:**
 - A coupon for a free Ash Wednesday dinner for your family
 - A coupon for a free Easter breakfast for your family
 - A free Mike's Car wash
 - One lb. of cookies from the Cookie Walk **OR** one free loaf of Justice Bread
 - One free Christian resource from the Information center (book selection will vary)



ST. MICHAEL PRESCHOOL NEWS

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFO AT 432-2033

REGISTER EARLY FOR 2012-2013 PRESCHOOL! Registration packets will be available in the church office on January 4 for all returning preschool families and St. Michael members. *Open registration will begin on February 1.* There are three classes...

3 year old	Tuesday/Thursday from 8:30 - 11:00 am	children must be 3 by August 1, 2012
4 year old	Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 8:30 - 11:00 am	children must be 4 by August 1, 2012
4/5 year old	Monday through Thursday from 12:30 - 3:00 pm	children must be 4 by January 31, 2012

EMMANUEL-ST. MICHAEL NEWS

FOR MORE INFO... WWW.ESMEAGLES.COM

SAVE THE DATE: The 4th Annual Dinner and Auction will take place on **Saturday, March 24**, in the St. Michael Family Life Center. The evening includes dinner, a silent auction, a dessert auction and a live auction. Mark the date on your calendars!

ST. MICHAEL NEWS



God's Kids Worship on January 8:

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, January 19, 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 January 7 at 7:00 AM. *Hope to see **you** there!*

LET IT SNOW?? We need to be prepared—can you help? Sign up on the office door to shovel snow one weekend during the snowy season. It is just for the sidewalk going from door to door. You could make it a family service opportunity. We provide the shovels, ice melt, and snow blower filled with gas. This may be a good teen project if any are interested in working for God and having fun at the same time. If you need a key or have any questions, contact Jerry Egly at (260) 396-2078.



LUTHERAN WITNESS: It is time to renew your Lutheran Witness subscriptions for 2012-13. Renewals MUST be turned in by January 8. The payment of \$8.50 can be placed in your contribution envelope or mark a plain envelope with your name and address.

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.



2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available on a table outside the gym. If you do not find a box with your name, please contact the church office.

JUSTICE BREAD will be available in the Narthex on January 7/8. Birdseed, breadsticks, and wheat will be available. For every \$3 loaf purchased, \$3.30 is donated to Lutheran Social Services to help families in need.



The Christmas families were very touched by your generous gifts. Thank you!

God's blessings, Marlene Lepper and Dick Doner



Gathering for Prayer

Both Scripture and history show us that there is great power when God's people unite in prayer. On Wednesday, January 18, from 7:00 – 8:00 pm, and Thursday, January 19, 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.

Serving in January 2012 at St. Michael

Serving in January 2012 at St. Michael				
Altar Guild		Marge Jesse, Linda Gibson, Jaime McNamara		
Sponsorships				
Flowers	7/8 14/15 21/22 28/29	Frank and Gloria Helfrich, in loving memory of their son, James Ryan Mickey Buschman and family, in loving memory of Fred Buschman OPEN OPEN		
Sonrise Ministry		<i>Celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or a special occasion!</i> Call Karen Hall at 432-3238 to sponsor the coffee and doughnut fellowship time on Sunday mornings		
8:00 10:45				
Acolytes	7/8 14/15 21/22 28/29 2-4/5	Blaire Wills Nathaniel Witmer Connor Bartkowiak Madison Morey Carlee Kiefer	Isabella Kaufman, Emily Lahey Kasey Miller, Nicole Strouts Lindley Kistler, Hannah Schultz Emily Hedrick, Cole Patterson Nathaniel Carmody, Andrew Faux	Caitlin Dumser, Jack Franklin Joshua Bickel, Katelyn Chaffee Kylie Steele, Mikayla Wright Maddie Chrzan, Cameron Trevino Mallory Harker, Lily Hoffmann
Children's Church	7/8 14/15 21/22 28/29	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
Elders		Al Claus	Dave Panning	Harry Jones
Greeters	7/8 14/15 21/22 28/29	Penny Pequignot Ellie Bolenbaugh John and Sue Baker Bob and Bernice Mock	Bud and Marie Siegfried Patty and Steve Gerdorn Jerry and Mary Riedel Dorothy Smith	Dave and Marsha Carden Janice Pekrul & Donna Nave Gary & Deb Gotsch, Georgia Minnick, and Robin Miser Sandy Hopper
Lay Readers	7/8 14/15 21/22 28/29			
Ushers		Dick Klaehn Dave Bauer	Chris Hupe	David Crow, John Olry, Greg Caudill, Walt Hess

MARRIAGE is a blessing From God! Tips for a good marriage...

- ♥ **Be united in Christ.** Pray together. Read your Bible together. (Ecclesiastes 4:11-12)
- ♥ **Be swift to hear and slow to speak!** Always be willing to forgive! It is important to say, "I'm sorry." (Proverbs 15:1)
- ♥ **Protect and honor your marriage vows!** Do not let others pull apart your marriage! Respect and honor each other! (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- ♥ **Make time to communicate with each other.** When conflict begins to occur, assume misunderstanding: "I probably misunderstood. Let's talk and clear things up." (Psalm 19:14)
- ♥ **Optimism helps marriage.** When your partner does something great, amplify it with: "She is brilliant!" or "He is always at the top of his game!" When your partner does something displeasing, find a believable explanation: "He was tired!" or "She must feel stressed!" (Ephesians 4:32)



St. Michael Lutheran Church
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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. If this option appeals to you, send the office an email (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.