



**Marks of Discipleship**

- Bible Study
- Discipling Others
- Giving Financially
- Loving One Another
- Ministry
- Personal Purity
- Prayer
- Servanthood
- Sharing the Faith
- Worship



# ST. MICHAEL NEWS

2131 Getz Road  
260-432-2033

Fort Wayne, IN 46804  
[www.stmichaellcms.org](http://www.stmichaellcms.org)

**But God demonstrates His own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8**



### Lenten Bible Reading Plan

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

As we begin Lent, I wondered why it is 40 days long. The short answer is that Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness. The question becomes why? We know from Scripture that this is in preparation for His ministry, and ultimately His death and resurrection. But there is much more to it. Forty is the number of days that it rained for Noah on the Ark, the number of years the Israelites wandered, and the number of days that Moses was on Sinai. This time period of "40" is a phase of learning, of struggling and of growing. I pray that's what we are doing here at St. Michael as well.

As Lent has just begun, I invite you to join in our reading program (the plan can be found on page 7). We started Ash Wednesday, but if you haven't gotten a chance to begin its not too late! We have copies to listen to Scripture on the computer, put on an Ipod or MP3 player, or follow our reading plan as we study together.

Check out [www.stmichael40days.blogspot.com](http://www.stmichael40days.blogspot.com), where we can gather together to discuss the scripture. Don't be nervous if you have never "blogged" before, it is just a place for us to comment together as we read the Scripture.

During this time, the church will be emailing daily devotions that tie in to that day's readying. If you are not receiving the daily devotion already, email Tammy at [tammy@stmichaellcms.org](mailto:tammy@stmichaellcms.org).

He is Risen Indeed! *Vicar Ben*

### No Thursday services during Lent Wednesday Lenten Services at 7:00 PM

Join us for this journey to the cross and empty tomb, where we see Jesus live out His promise: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies" (John 11:25). Children's sermons will be a part of each service. Lasting about 40-45 minutes, these worship times will help the entire family better recognize Jesus' great sacrifice for us and prepare us for the celebration of Easter!



### Fellowship, Food, and Worship

Lenten suppers will continue each Wednesday through Lent from 5:45 – 6:45 PM. Join us for dinner and fellowship before the Lenten services.

### Easter Services

This year, we are excited to offer an additional Easter morning service! St. Michael has been blessed with great attendance in the 9:00 service. To alleviate crowding and make room for visitors and members wishing to worship, we are adding a service that will start at 9:09 in Room 24. This service will be set up similar to the Saturday service, including music led by St. Michael Praise Teams. We will continue to offer the traditional Easter services at 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 am, with music from the brass group, flutes, adult choir, and bells. What a wonderful day to invite friends and family as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin, death, and Satan...and realize that the victory is ours as well!

**EASTER FLOWERS:** There are three ways that you can help us decorate the Sanctuary for Easter worship services. Monetary contributions of any amount may be given by using the pew envelope (please specify EASTER FLOWERS) and placing it in the offering plate. You may purchase a plant and bring it to church on the Saturday before Easter (please place your name on the plant if you are planning on picking it up). You can order flowers from the following list:

1 stem Lily	\$12.99	Azaleas	\$24.99	Daffodils	\$10.99
2 stem Lily	\$25.99	3 bloom Hydrangea	\$19.99	Hyacinths	\$10.99
Tulips	\$10.99	Mums	\$12.99		



Order forms are available on the Narthex table or you can call Ed Bowman at 432-8057 by Wednesday, April 1. If you will be bringing flowers, the church will be open from 9:00 – noon on Saturday, April 11.

**In his heart a man plans his course,  
but the Lord determines his steps. Proverbs 16:9**



#### ON THE HORIZON

It has been a few months since I've shared what is "ON THE HORIZON" for St. Michael. A few times each year, I will depart from my typical devotional tone to let you know about some upcoming thoughts or events in the planning life of the church.

Before I jump in, I want to encourage you to become involved in our congregational New Testament reading program if you are not already. I know that God will bless us and strengthen us as we are in His Word as a congregation. Please check elsewhere in the newsletter for more information about this.

As I mentioned in January's State of the Congregation worship service, the Building Committee has been meeting since May of 2008 looking at the current and future ministry needs of St. Michael. The results of a Needs Assessment Study indicated that we face six key challenges—all related to our capacity issues and ability to support the immediate and future needs of St. Michael:

1. **Worship Space** is beyond capacity at 10:45 am and near capacity on Saturday night
  - a. I believe it is starting to impact our guests and their returning to our congregation
2. **Large Gathering Space**—No place to gather more than 100 people
  - a. Sanctuary used Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday nights
  - b. Fellowship Hall and Room 24 often used at same time
  - c. Youth Ministry is being hindered by lack of this space
  - d. Need for a gymnasium-like space for the church and ESM usage
3. **Smaller Gathering Spaces**—Completely out of room on Sunday mornings
  - a. Over 300 people attend on Sunday morning
  - b. More Bible classes could be offered, Sunday School classes multiplied
  - c. ESM likely has future needs for more classroom space
4. **Parking** is at a premium, especially from 9:15 - 11:00 am on Sunday morning
5. **Staff office space**—staff are now sharing offices; they are scattered throughout building and sharing spaces like the Sunday School supply room
6. **Storage needs**—preschool, music ministry, handbells, puppet ministry, and trustees among the many groups that need dedicated space for their materials

The Building Committee has shared this report with the Church Council, and it is the hope of those involved that we can bring some recommendations for the voters to consider at the spring voters meeting. Please pray for those involved in this work, and our congregation as a whole. What a great promise from the Proverb above—that while we plan a course, it is the Lord Who determines our steps. May we continue to bring Him glory as we Grow, Proclaim, and Serve on this Lenten journey together!

God's peace, *Pastor Matt*



We would like to thank all of our St. Michael family for your prayers and cards at the loss of mother, grandmother and great-Grandmother, Evelyn Schultz. We feel extremely blessed to be part of such a caring congregation. We find comfort in knowing that she was taken home peacefully to be with God in eternity.

The Maxson Family



*Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;  
you will cry for help, and He will say: Here am I.*

**Isaiah 58:9a**

What do you do with your fears?

There is a lot of fear plaguing our society these days due to the economy, but people have always struggled with fears. There are even people who are afraid of clowns. The official term for this irrational aversion to red-nosed entertainers is *coulrophobia*. While many are merely creeped out by clowns, the fear runs much deeper for others, affecting their daily lives. One theory suggests that some are afraid of clowns because it is impossible to gauge a clown's true emotions. Thanks to painted-on smiles, people can't distinguish if the clown is as happy as he seems or if he's actually about to bite somebody's face off.

I suppose it is easy for us to "paint on a smile" when we are together in weekend worship services. Although most of us are facing various kinds of "fearful" challenges, we don't want to "burden others" with our problems. So what *do* we do with our fears?

- 1) *Be honest with someone you can trust.* Talk to a pastor, a counselor, a friend, or your small group. Being a part of a small group is a great place to share your fears. As you get to know a handful of Christians well, you will be able to share the fears/challenges of your life...and receive encouragement and prayer. We are to "carry each other's burdens," and it happens best in small groups.
- 2) *Picture God's deep love for you.* One of my favorite Bible verses is Zephaniah 3:16-17: *Do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you; He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you; He will quiet you with His love...*

"Limp hands" means that you are paralyzed by fear; that you are at a complete loss as to what to do next; that you are facing what appears to be an impossible situation. This phrase captures the disciples at the foot of the cross, does it not? Standing with "limp hands," it appeared that God was out of options. The future was without hope. Talk about FEAR!

But the truth is, God never runs out of options...for *He is mighty to save!* During this Lenten season, we will once again examine God's startling plan to save us and give us eternal life!

When you are fearful, don't just "paint on a smile." Find someone to talk with and trust our great God.

With Jesus' Everlasting Love, **Pastor Bob**



*Staff Changes*

We want to provide some information on the recently announced reorganization. This reorganization has been in the discussion and planning process for a year or more. Its initiation was not sparked by any particular event. One outgrowth of our long-range strategic plan was to have the personnel committee review the organization to determine the best use of our resources and to be good stewards of our assets—human and otherwise. Each person that was impacted by these decisions has faithfully served St. Michael.

Tammy Bruns and Dick Fahlsing continue to be on our staff. Tammy has been asked to accept the responsibility of the Operations Manager, which will replace the Business Manager position. The accounting function has been split off to a separate job, and Dick Fahlsing will now serve as the St. Michael Staff Accountant. The following positions report to the Operations Manager: Office personnel, Custodian, contract maintenance, Staff Accountant, Financial Secretary, and counting teams. Tammy and Dick will be very effective in these positions with their skills.

The Maintenance position was developed eight years ago to perform custodial and skilled maintenance work. In the time since the second custodian position was created, nearly all custodial work transitioned to the Custodian and maintenance requirements have not required a full-time maintenance person. The personnel committee believes it is a better use of our treasures to not have a full-time maintenance position but rather to outsource the necessary maintenance to an on-call maintenance professional, who is capable of performing a broad range of maintenance services. With the elimination of the maintenance position, we no longer had a position for Mark Smith. As part of the release, Mark has accepted a very nice severance package. There are no further organization changes planned this year. We ask that you keep all of these people in your prayers for a smooth transition and for Mark as he searches for a job.



These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Salamaleikum (hello in Senegal) -

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6). It seems so simple right? Wrong. Our society is bombarding our kids with how they should live, and it is all too willing to raise our kids for us.

Beginning in March, I will be leading my first adult class at St. Michael during the Sunday school hour. Youth culture has been weighing on me heavily lately, and I have been reading Youth Culture 101 by Walt Mueller. The book delves into our youth and children's culture, which is different than when I grew up and even more different than when most parents grew up. There is so much our kids go through that we just did not have to deal with when we were younger. This class will examine topics such as:

- The media's influence on youth
- How advertisers intentionally target youth
- Peer pressure, sex, materialism, substance abuse, depressions and suicide.

We will also be talking about how parents, grandparents, youth leaders and other adults can help these youth stay connected to Christ through all of the garbage that is out there.

I encourage all parents (not just parents of teens) and grandparents who are concerned with the world our youth are growing up in to come to this class, so we all can understand them better. You will discover more about youth culture than you can imagine. I hope to see you! May you all have a peaceful & "uncluttered" March!

Your Bro in Christ, *Scott Hedtke*



#### This Month's Events

March 4	Senior Youth FIREPROOF	7:45 – 9:00 pm (shorter due to Lent)
March 11	Senior Youth FIREPROOF	7:45 – 9:00 pm
March 13	WINTER JAM	<i>sign up on the bulletin board</i>
March 14	Junior Youth POWERHOUSE	6:00 – 8:30 pm
March 15	West Virginia Mission Trip Meeting	Noon
March 18	Senior Youth FIREPROOF	7:45 – 9:00 pm
March 21	KFC & The Nuggets	6:15 – 7:45 pm
March 25	Senior Youth FIREPROOF	7:45 – 9:00 pm
March 28	Junior Youth POWERHOUSE	6:00 – 8:30 pm
March 29-April 4	Scott on Spring Break!!!	<i>Whoohoo!!</i>
April 5	West Virginia Mission Trip Meeting	9:30 am in Youth Room
April 11	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 am
April 12	Senior Youth Easter Breakfast	be here by 6:00 am
April 17-19	8 <sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Retreat	

**WANTED: EMAIL ADDRESSES!** Scott has been sending college students devotions via email bi-weekly and would love to include your son or daughter—but he needs their email address. Please email Scott at [DCESCOTT@STMICHAELLCMS.ORG](mailto:DCESCOTT@STMICHAELLCMS.ORG) with their email, and he will add them to his list. He also is always looking for emails for junior and senior high youth.

**BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS** will be celebrated the weekend of March 7/8 for the following children through age 12: Braden Bartkowiak, Brooke Chaffee, Joseph Deeter, Victoria Hoffman, Isabella Kaufman, Nicolas Lehman, Olivia Logan, Mia Loggins, Caleb Patterson, Wyatt Raney, Noah Selking, Gretchen Witmer, Natalie and Nathaniel Witmer, Elliot Yoder.





God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

God's unconditional love for us is inconceivable, undeniable, and all encompassing. Although no words can adequately describe God's love for us, music can be a starting place. These two songs reflect on God's love. First, *How Great Thou Art*, a traditional hymn:

*But when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin; then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee, how great Thou art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

Similar thoughts are expressed in this newer song by Michael Zender, *How Could You Love Me So Much*:

*Oh Lord, my God, I stand amazed, as I behold Your matchless grace; I see You smiling down upon this child, and see Your everloving face. To know that in Your heart of hearts, I am the apple of Your eye, I marvel at Your love for me, oh Lord, to think Your love would make You die... And now I'm free from guilt and shame, by Your shed blood upon the cross; to think Your love would take You, Lord, that far, so that my gain became Your loss...*

As we humbly ponder the love that led Jesus to die in our place, we simply give thanks and look forward to spending eternity giving all glory, honor, and praise to the One Who has given us eternity with Him!

#### Worship Notes

- **Lenten choir schedule:** The Men's Choir will rehearse at 6:15 pm and the Adult Choir will rehearse immediately after the Wednesday services during Lent.
- **Praise Team Retreat!!!** If you are currently in, or would like to join a St. Michael praise team, please mark April 25<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. We will look at different vocal and instrumental techniques, experiment with music style, and have some 'jam' time. This will be a great time of fellowship, learning, and fun!
- **Brass, Handbells, and Vocal Choirs** are preparing for Holy Week and Easter services. Please contact Stephanie Maxson if you are interested in joining any of our musical groups. We would love to have you join us!

*Stephanie Maxson*



Greetings from the Children's Ministry! The faint hint of spring is in the air, and we look forward with great anticipation. "... Behold I make all things new..." (Revelation 21:5). There is a little more sunlight each day.

This month, KFC and the Nuggets will explore God's promises and the symbols of St. Patrick's Day. Join us on March 21 from 6:15 until 7:45 pm for some great fun and fellowship. **Be sure to wear some green to stay with our theme.** Parents are always welcome to stay and enjoy the evening with their kids. You might find you have some kid in you!

Let's try something new! On Saturday, April 11, from 10:00 - 11:30 am, we will be having Easter Egg-citement! Join us for an egg hunt, craft and special Easter message. All pre-school thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to explore this fun time learning about Jesus' death and resurrection. Volunteers are needed to prep for this new venture. Please contact me if you are interested in helping.

I have enjoyed meeting many of you over the last month or so. Please keep introducing yourselves. It's fun getting to know you and your children. In Christ, **Ashley Hegge**



## FOLD Ministry News...

**What's NEW!** If you haven't seen the **NEW FOLD Catalog** be sure to pick one up at the Information Center! This catalog lists all the FOLDS, shepherd names, short descriptions, phone numbers, and when they meet. Periodically this catalog will be updated as new FOLDS form. (Last week, I had to change it three times! How exciting!)

**Remember...If you don't see a FOLD that is meeting your needs please call Karen to discuss starting a new one. You never know who else may have that same need.**

**NEEDED!** I am looking for Shepherds as we continue to expand our FOLDS. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to lead a FOLD. It is a privilege to lead a small caring community (the FOLD) deeper in their relationship with Jesus. God will bless your faithfulness in answering His call.

**Shepherds, Mark Your Calendar!** Our next **Shepherd Round-Up** is Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 pm. Please RSVP by March 22<sup>nd</sup> to Karen.

**A FOLD in Focus:** A new FOLD, the "Empty Nesters," is made up of couples who are looking to enrich their marriages through Bible/topical studies. In addition to meeting monthly, there will be occasional "date nights" for socializing as a group. For the first six meetings they are using the resource called "Great Beginnings" by Serendipity. Meeting together is: Brad and Beth Gough, Jim and Carol Weide, Dale and Pat Bultemeier, and Dave and Karen Kuehnert (shepherd and host). New couples are always WELCOME!

**A FOLD that is Forming:** A Singles FOLD is forming! If you are single, over the age of 25 and under the age of 110, this might be the group for you. This FOLD will be meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, **beginning** March 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 pm. Call Karen for more details.

**A Special Thank You...to Harry Jones, Debbie Gotsch and Shayne Ulmer** for agreeing to be on the FOLD Advisory Team. Your insights and prayers are appreciated! To **Myra Bly-Atkinson** for agreeing to put the FOLD Resource Library on the computer, this will eventually be accessible through the website! To the **FOLDS** that are helping with the Lenten Dinners. To the **FOLDS** that are assisting the Human Care Team with mission projects. They couldn't do it without you!

**Blahssings** to all in the month of March. Will it come in like a lion and go out like a lamb?

*Karen Kuehnert*

# ST. MICHAEL PRESCHOOL NEWS

Church Office: 432-2033

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

Michelle Wolfer, Preschool Director

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION:** It is not too late to sign up your child for the 4/5 year old preschool class. Registration packets can be picked up in the church office. If you have any questions, call the Preschool Director at 432-2033 or the church office.



**PRESCHOOL SUNDAY:** All preschool children will be singing with Pastor Bob and Mrs. Wolfer on March 15 at the 10:45 service.



Union Street Office: 422-6712

Getz Road Office: 459-1616

[www.esmeagles.com](http://www.esmeagles.com)

**RE-ENROLLMENT FOR 2009-2010:** Any family with children returning to ESM for the 2009-2010 school year, must complete a re-enrollment form and return it to either school office with the family registration fee of \$150 before March 20. Some classes are at or near capacity, and we currently have waiting lists for several of our grade levels. It is important that you secure your child's spot for next year. Open enrollment for new students will begin on March 21.

## FUNDRAISERS FOR ESM:

- **MARKET DAY:** [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com)
- **SCRIP SALES:** Stop at the Scrip Cash N' Carry table (Getz Road on Friday morning from 8 – 8:30 AM). If you would like to order or have any questions, contact Randy or Stacey Kammeyer at 484-0563.

**"SPRINGTIME KALEIDOSCOPE" DINNER-AUCTION:** Mark your calendar and plan now to attend this special event on Saturday, April 25, in the gymnasium at Union Street. The silent auction will begin at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at 6:30, dessert auction at 7:15, and the oral auction at 7:45. Tickets are on sale in the Union Street and Getz Road school offices for \$20.00 each. Proceeds from the auction will be used for the purchase of a new sound system for the Union Street gym. To view the items for auction, donate to the auction, or volunteer to help, go to [www.geocities.com/esmauction](http://www.geocities.com/esmauction).

**THE EAGLES NEED YOUR SUPPORT!** Consider donating an item for the "Springtime Kaleidoscope" Dinner-Auction. Household items such as decorative pillows, pictures, quilts; sporting goods, balls, sporting event tickets, board games, or a cash donation will help fill the auction booths. Contact Diana Fulton, 747-9438, Dianne Snider, 434-1007, or visit [www.geocities.com/esmauction](http://www.geocities.com/esmauction) for more information. The Union Street campus gymnasium/auditorium sound and multimedia system will benefit from the proceeds raised. All gifts are tax deductible.



Concordia Lutheran High School

Office: 483-1102

[www.clhscadets.com](http://www.clhscadets.com)

**DISCOVER CONCORDIA** provides prospective parents and students an opportunity to take a look around Concordia. **The next Discover Concordia evening will be Tuesday, March 24, at 6:30 pm.** The evening includes small group tours, a look at various programs, and a chance to meet administrators. Refreshments will be served and everyone will receive a CLHS DVD. Come, Discover Concordia!

**CLHS ARMY JROTC CADET BATTALION** will host the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Captain Homer L. Clendenen Memorial Drill Meet on Saturday, March 21. Competition begins at 8:30 am. Events run continuously throughout the day with the final Award Ceremony held at approximately 7:00 PM. This event is free and open to the public.

**SPIKE AND THE BULLDOGS:** This event will help raise funds to support the endowment for instrumental music students wishing to attend Concordia, to purchase new musical instruments, and missions. Make plans to attend this second annual event on Saturday, April 25, at the Pine Valley Country Club. Tickets are \$25.00 each and will be on sale at the high school beginning January 12 for the Concordia family and open to the public February 2. For more information or to make a gift or cash donation, contact the CLHS Music Department at 483-1102 ext 198.

**THRIFT SHOP:** March on in for savings. Stop in March 20-28 and find clothing half off! Some exceptions may apply. Located at 3436 N. Anthony and shop hours are Monday, 10:00 - 7:30 pm; Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 - 5:00 pm; and Saturday, 9:30 - 3:30 pm.

## CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**PLAYSCAPE CONSTRUCTION:** The "CTS Playscape" project has been a vision for over 10 years. The grassy east end of the 191-acre campus has always been designated for exercise and recreation. As such it is a natural safe setting for children to recreate and play, especially while other siblings may be playing on fields. The playscape will be designed on the basis of some of the most well-known Biblical stories. There will be a small Noah's ark, the Tower of Babel, the Sinai Rock Wall, Jacob's Ladder and others.

Part of the excitement and sense of community created by such a project is the base of between 80-100 volunteers serving each shift of the build, which will take place on May 5-9. Church members, small groups, and schools are invited to serve at one or more of the shifts. Contact the Playscape Coordinator with any questions at 260-452-2223 or [playscape@ctsfw.edu](mailto:playscape@ctsfw.edu).

## Serving in March 2009 at St. Michael

<b>Altar Guild</b>		Donna Braun, Marge Jesse, Linda Hansen			
<b>Nursery</b>		Holly Raney / Jen Clendenen / Jessica McLain			
		<b>Sonrise Ministry</b>		<b>Baked Goods</b>	
<b>Sponsors</b>	8 15 22 29	All dates open...Contact Karen Hall at 432-9238 or <a href="mailto:karenonc@aol.com">karenonc@aol.com</a>		6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Students OPEN OPEN OPEN	
		<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>10:45 AM</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	4/7/8 11/14/15 18/21/22 25/28/29 4-1/4/5	S. Fisher, L. Miller M. Lopez, E. Moberg C. Powers, A. Starke A. Dantzer, S. Ryan A. Klutz, C. Panning	L. Tarbet H. Lehman S. Sauerteig B. Nutter N. Bartkowiak	K. Coverdale, M. Meyer M. Miller, Z. Panning C. Panning, B. Sir Louis E. Pearl, R. Smith L. Miller, C. Powers	I. Doenges, K. Kiefer E. Franklin, M. Martin A. Klutz, E. Olson M. Thompson, M. Willson C. Arnold, M. Lopez
<b>Elders</b>		Dave Carden	Steve Myers	Stan Scheumann	Harry Jones
<b>Lay Readers</b>	4/7/8 11/14/15 18/21/22 25/28/29 4-1/4/5	Vicki Steckbeck John Hein Bruce Schroeder Al Henkel Janice Pekrul	Cindy Mendenhall Mary Leininger OPEN Bruce Schroeder OPEN	Jane Sieber OPEN Dick Fahlsing OPEN OPEN	Bob Kaiser Dick Doner Janice Pekrul OPEN OPEN
<b>Ushers</b>			Richard Klaehn Jack Black	Phil Gray, Rendell Miller Paul Smith, Doug Bultemeyer	David Crow
		<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>10:45 AM</b>	
<b>Children's Church</b>	7/8 14/15 21/22 28/29	Teresa, Ashley, & Katie Peters Kim Bruns, Emily Hahn OPEN, Judy Pieper Carri Bartkowiak, Emily Hahn	Cathy Geyer, Shirley Fahlsing Jama Fry, Jennifer Nix, Kait Scriven Lisa Lorenz, Holly Raney Jane Sieber, Marilyn Crum	Michelle Bade, Kelly Werth Mary Nichols, Lynette Selking Gina and Katelyn Connelly Adrienne Clendenen, Emma Franklin	
<b>Greeters</b>	7/8 14/15 21/22 28/29	Penny Pequignot OPEN John and Sue Baker Robert and Bernice Mock	OPEN Bud and Marie Siegfried Dorothy Smith OPEN	Gary and Debbie Gotsch Virginia M. Harwood Ron and Diane Menze Chuck and Linda Chapman	
<b>Welcome Center</b>	7/8 14/15 21/22 28/29	Kelly Lohman Joe and Mindi Schoeph John and Sue Baker Terry and Sandy Butler	Dick and Shirley Fahlsing Brian and Nancy Zirbel Kim Bruns Jim and Linda Grossman	Janice Pekrul Carol Olry Tammy Bickel Adriene Jones	

✓	Week 1	✓	Week 5	✓	Week 9	✓	Week 13
	2/25 <a href="#">Matthew 1 - 2</a>		3/23 <a href="#">Luke 9-10</a>		4/20 <a href="#">Romans 14-16</a>		5/18 <a href="#">James 1-3</a>
	2/26 <a href="#">Matthew 3-4</a>		3/24 <a href="#">Luke 11-12</a>		4/21 <a href="#">1 Corinthians 1-3</a>		5/19 <a href="#">James 4-5</a>
	2/27 <a href="#">Matthew 5-6</a>		3/25 <a href="#">Luke 13-14</a>		4/22 <a href="#">1 Corinthians 4-6</a>		5/20 <a href="#">1 Peter 1-5</a>
	2/28 <a href="#">Matthew 7-8</a>		3/26 <a href="#">Luke 15-16</a>		4/23 <a href="#">1 Corinthians 7-9</a>		5/21 <a href="#">2 Peter 1-3</a>
	3/1 <a href="#">Matthew 9 - 10</a>		3/27 <a href="#">Luke 17-18</a>		4/24 <a href="#">1 Corinthians 10-12</a>		5/22 <a href="#">1 John 1-5</a>
			3/28 <a href="#">Luke 19-20</a>		4/25 <a href="#">1 Corinthians 13-16</a>		5/23 <a href="#">2 John, 3 John, Jude</a>
			3/29 <a href="#">Luke 21-22</a>		4/26 <a href="#">2 Corinthians 1-3</a>		5/24 <a href="#">Revelation 1-2</a>
✓	Week 2	✓	Week 6	✓	Week 10	✓	Week 14
	3/2 <a href="#">Matthew 11 - 12</a>		3/30 <a href="#">Luke 23-24</a>		4/27 <a href="#">2 Corinthians 4-6</a>		5/25 <a href="#">Revelation 3-4</a>
	3/3 <a href="#">Matthew 13 - 14</a>		3/31 <a href="#">John 1-3</a>		4/28 <a href="#">2 Corinthians 7-9</a>		5/26 <a href="#">Revelation 5-7</a>
	3/4 <a href="#">Matthew 15 - 16</a>		4/1 <a href="#">John 4-6</a>		4/29 <a href="#">2 Corinthians 10-13</a>		5/27 <a href="#">Revelation 8-10</a>
	3/5 <a href="#">Matthew 17 - 18</a>		4/2 <a href="#">John 7-9</a>		4/30 <a href="#">Galatians 1-3</a>		5/28 <a href="#">Revelation 11-13</a>
	3/6 <a href="#">Matthew 19 - 20</a>		4/3 <a href="#">John 10-12</a>		5/1 <a href="#">Galatians 4-6</a>		5/29 <a href="#">Revelation 14-16</a>
	3/7 <a href="#">Matthew 21 - 22</a>		4/4 <a href="#">John 13-15</a>		5/2 <a href="#">Ephesians 1-3</a>		5/30 <a href="#">Revelation 17-19</a>
	3/8 <a href="#">Matthew 23 - 24</a>		4/5 <a href="#">John 16-18</a>		5/3 <a href="#">Ephesians 4-6</a>		5/31 <a href="#">Revelation 20-22</a>
✓	Week 3	✓	Week 7	✓	Week 11		
	3/9 <a href="#">Matthew 25 - 26</a>		4/6 <a href="#">John 19-21</a>		5/4 <a href="#">Philippians 1-4</a>		
	3/10 <a href="#">Matthew 27 - 28</a>		4/7 <a href="#">Acts 1-3</a>		5/5 <a href="#">Colossians 1-4</a>		
	3/11 <a href="#">Mark 1-2</a>		4/8 <a href="#">Acts 4-7</a>		5/6 <a href="#">1 Thessalonians 1-2</a>		
	3/12 <a href="#">Mark 3-4</a>		4/9 <a href="#">Acts 8-10</a>		5/7 <a href="#">1 Thessalonians 3-5</a>		
	3/13 <a href="#">Mark 5-6</a>		4/10 <a href="#">Acts 11-13</a>		5/8 <a href="#">2 Thessalonians 1-3</a>		
	3/14 <a href="#">Mark 7-8</a>		4/11 <a href="#">Acts 14-17</a>		5/9 <a href="#">1 Timothy 1-3</a>		
	3/15 <a href="#">Mark 9-10</a>		4/12 <a href="#">Acts 18-20</a>		5/10 <a href="#">1 Timothy 4-6</a>		
✓	Week 4	✓	Week 8	✓	Week 12		
	3/16 <a href="#">Mark 11-12</a>		4/13 <a href="#">Acts 21-23</a>		5/11 <a href="#">2 Timothy 1-4</a>		
	3/17 <a href="#">Mark 13-14</a>		4/14 <a href="#">Acts 24-26</a>		5/12 <a href="#">Titus 1-3, Philemon</a>		
	3/18 <a href="#">Mark 15-16</a>		4/15 <a href="#">Acts 27-28</a>		5/13 <a href="#">Hebrews 1-2</a>		
	3/19 <a href="#">Luke 1-2</a>		4/16 <a href="#">Romans 1-3</a>		5/14 <a href="#">Hebrews 3-5</a>		
	3/20 <a href="#">Luke 3-4</a>		4/17 <a href="#">Romans 4-7</a>		5/15 <a href="#">Hebrews 6-8</a>		
	3/21 <a href="#">Luke 5-6</a>		4/18 <a href="#">Romans 8-10</a>		5/16 <a href="#">Hebrews 9-11</a>		
	3/22 <a href="#">Luke 7-8</a>		4/19 <a href="#">Romans 11-13</a>		5/17 <a href="#">Hebrews 12-13</a>		

St. Michael  
listening or  
reading plan  
for the New  
Testament

## PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL



**3-SNAS—3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Adult Bible Study:** Join us on March 21 for dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 and Bible Study in Room 24 at 6:45. We will be done promptly at 7:45.

**KFC AND THE NUGGETS** will explore God's promises and the symbols of St. Patrick's Day. Join us on March 21 from 6:15 until 7:45 pm for some great fun and fellowship. **Be sure to wear some green to stay with our theme.** Parents are always welcome to stay and enjoy the evening with their kids.

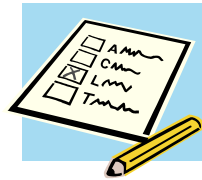
**NOT THE SAME OLD SUMMER VACATION!** Have you made plans for summer vacation yet? Thinking about just another one of those weeks of sunburns and charcoal burgers at the lake? Or maybe a trip to some resort to get your fill of time at the beach or on the links? Perhaps this year you might join with a group of believers who want to try a new kind of vacation showing God's love to people in need. The Apostle James writes: "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it" (James 2:15-16)? Christ tells us that "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me" (Matthew 25:40). Believers need to take these words to heart. In these increasingly difficult financial times, those of us who have the ability need to be seeking ways to bless and encourage those in need. Perhaps this is an opportunity for you to take Christ at His word by serving in the warm summer sun in the Appalachians in Blaine, Kentucky, from June 28 - July 3. A little cleaning, a little painting, some light construction work, and whatever else we can do to show the love of Christ to people in need. Along the way, you are sure to receive some blessings yourself. You will certainly not regret your decision to serve in Jesus' name and will come home a different person. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact John Hein at 471-2548 or Jim Sims at 625-3139.

**CHRISTIAN MINISTRY FOR MARRIAGE:** *"Just discovering how others had shared our road of pain and made it back, gave us courage not to give up."* This quote is from a couple after a Retrouvaille weekend. The goal of Retrouvaille is to save marriages and to help couples understand and enjoy the lifelong relationship that God intends for them. Retrouvaille can help those couples who are struggling, who are separated, who are considering divorce, who are in the process of divorce, or who are just unhappy. The next Retrouvaille Weekend is March 6-9. All inquiries are confidential. Call 485-1944 or (800) 470-2230 for more information.

### **FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**

**Baptisms:** Roman Bruns, Abigail Lehman, Hayden Higdon, Chance Gumm

## ST. MICHAEL NEWS



**NOMINATIONS ARE BEING TAKEN:** St. Michael congregation has one leadership position that will need to be filled at our April Voters' Meeting: Vice President. Please consider running for this position or recommending a suitable and willing candidate. All nominations should be turned into the church office or given to Rick Bruns.

**DO YOU ENJOY KNITTING OR CROCHETING?** You are invited to attend a retreat hosted by the Purls on March 17 from 10:00 – 3:00 pm. Join us for food, fun, fellowship, and so much more. Please call Pat Armstrong at 432-4238 or [epapna@verizon.net](mailto:epapna@verizon.net) to RSVP or for more information. *Hope to see you there!*

**ATTENTION: READERS!** *All women are invited to join* the St. Michael Women's Book Group on Thursday, March 12, at 10:00 AM. We will discuss *The Shack* by William P. Young. Any questions, call Carol Weide at 672-3530.

**DIET, DISCIPLINE, DISCIPLESHIP:** Men and women are invited to attend this 12-week session, starting on Thursday, March 19. We will weigh in from 9:00 - 9:30 am, and then follow it up with discussion, devotions, and prayers from 9:30 – 10:30. This program incorporates sound nutrition, wellness advice, tips for living well, and daily spiritual readings. Members will meet in a small group format and share the ups and downs of your weekly journey. Materials will need to be ordered for the class, so please contact the church office or sign up on the bulletin board. The book is approximately \$20 and the journal (optional) is approximately \$15. The cost will depend on the number of books ordered, so sign up early. If you have questions, contact Karen Kuehnert at [karen.kuehnert@stmichaellcms.org](mailto:karen.kuehnert@stmichaellcms.org) or 432-2033.

**January 2009 Offerings: \$79,958**

**January 2009 Budgeted: \$75,908**

### **Save the dates...**



**June 28<sup>th</sup>** will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Picnic/Family Retreat. After the success of last year's church picnic, we are adding the option of an overnight family retreat. Families may sign up to camp on Friday, June 27, at Kramer Park. The day will include activities for children and adults, gourmet food (yes, cooked over a fire), devotions, singing, and more. Sunday will begin with a worship service, and continue with a potluck and games. You may come for the entire weekend or just parts of it. Look for more details to follow.

**VBS 2009: August 3 – 7!** We are counting down to fun at *Operation Space: A Close Encounter with God's Word!* In this galactic VBS adventure like no other, kids learn how God reveals Himself through His world and His Word. Contact Ashley if you are interested in helping in any way.

## MEN'S MINISTRY



**MARCH 7@7:** Join us on **March 7 at 7:00 AM** for breakfast and prayer in the Fellowship Hall.

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

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Keep your mite boxes in a visible place and save your loose change. Place the change in a plastic bag and deposit in the large mite box at the Welcome Center on

the first Sunday of each month. LWML uses your Mite offerings to fund projects in Indiana and around the world, such as the Word and Sacrament Outreach in South Central Indiana and Worship for Shut-Ins.

**FORT WAYNE ZONE LWML RALLY** will be held on Saturday, March 28, from 8:30 – 11:30 am at St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Haven. The speaker, Don Wharton, is a Christian singer, songwriter, author, and humorist. If you are interested in attending, call Frances McIntosh at 625-6489.

**2009 INDIANA DISTRICT LWML RETREAT** will be held on April 17-18 at Clifty Falls State Park in Madison, Indiana. The registration fee of \$89 includes housing, meals & materials. The registration deadline is March 8. If you are interested in attending, contact Mary Nichols at 459 7679.



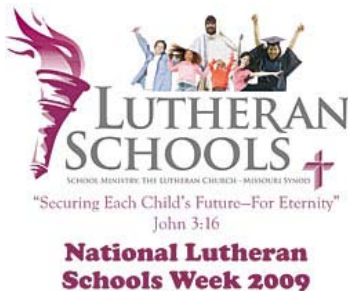
**MEET 'N GREET:** The Women's Ministry invites all women to this fun event, which will be held in Room 24 next Sunday, March 8, from 9:00 – 9:25 AM. This is a great time to meet the many women of St. Michael. Hope you can make it!

**MEET, GREET, AND EAT!** The St. Michael Women's Ministry invites you to an evening of Meet, Greet, 'n Eat on Friday, March 13, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM in Room 24. If you have tried the Sunday Meet 'n Greet, you know how much fun it can be. If you have not been able to make it to one, this is the time to try it! This is a great way to meet the many women of St. Michael. In addition to lively conversation and a time of fellowship, you can also enjoy some delightful desserts. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar! No sign up or reservations are necessary. We are looking forward to seeing you there!



Don't forget to change your clocks on March 8!

## National Lutheran Schools Week, March 1 - 7



**What is a Lutheran Education?** Pastor John H.C. Fritz authored an essay under the title, "Why a Christian School for My Children," more than 60 years ago. The paragraph below captures the essence of his thesis.

*"Our Lutheran Church has never underestimated the great value of a good all-around education. Of the right kind of knowledge we cannot acquire too much. The foundation of a man's life is laid in his youth. The years of childhood make up the formative period of life. Our boys and girls are our men and women of the coming years. Our future generation will be what our children are today: physically, mentally, morally, spiritually. The purpose of the Christian parochial school in our Lutheran Church is to provide our children with a proper and well-balanced "diet," to give them what they need for a proper healthy development of the intellect and the soul. To fit them for life."*

Pastor Fritz articulates a mission that helped establish the LCMS as a leader in parochial education decades ago. Today, that same purpose exists. A Lutheran education is one that establishes Christ firmly in the center of life and seeks to connect children and families to the grace freely offered by our Savior. This is done within the context of excellent academic instruction. Families may identify many and varied reasons for their participation in our school. However, regardless of their reasons for attendance, we must not be varied in our purpose for existing. More than at any other time in our nation's history, we need Christian leaders who confidently and consistently are able to go into the world fulfilling the commission of [Matthew 28:16-20](#). This requires a unified commitment to the mission and ministry of ESM, and to that end, Lutheran education must at all times not water-down, compromise, or waver in its teaching of Christ crucified.

Jacob Pennekamp, Principal

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY AND ST. MICHAEL

### GOD'S MISSION – COMMUNITY CHARITY OUTREACH

**Thank you for all your generous donations.** In January, St. Michael provided 2550 pounds of food to 19 families—five of those families had no church affiliation. We thank you for the \$814.19 door offering and \$35 for gas. We received many items for the seminary.

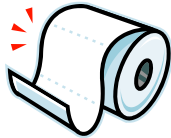
The Community Charity Outreach Program is in **need of shampoo, detergent, body lotion, and gas cards** for members who are clients. Thank you for your donations and prayers. God's blessings to all of you!

*Marlene Lepper and Dick Doner*

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*  
2 Corinthians 9:7

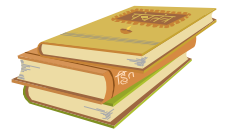
### WAYS YOU CAN HELP

**LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!** Each family is challenged to bring one roll of *toilet tissue each month!* Donations are used to help Community Harvest Senior Pak and the Community Charity Outreach. Please place rolls in CHFB barrel.



### CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR MISSIONS:

The St. Michael Women's Book Club is collecting new and gently used children's books through March. We will distribute them to Fort Wayne inner city children.



**CRACKERS AND FISH:** During Lent, we will hold our annual collection of fish and crackers. Please bring your cans of fish (tuna, salmon, or any canned meat) along with boxes of crackers. The food will be distributed to the Associated Churches' Food Bank who distributes the food to families in need.

**SUPPORT OUR YOUTH** by sponsoring the *Sonrise Ministry*, which provides the refreshments and sets up the St. Michael Fellowship time at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings. This ministry is solely supported by free will donations and sponsorships. Celebrate an engagement, a baptism, your family...*dates are available through May 18 for sponsors and bakers.* If you would like to help, call Karen Hall at 432-9238 or Jami Jo Hahn at 260-359-1458.

### STEWARDSHIP CORNER



***“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”*** (Matthew 6:19-21).

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, Christians understand that riches do not consist of money. In fact, riches have nothing to do with money. We can have very little money and be very rich or be very wealthy and be impoverished. True riches have to do with a right relationship with Jesus, Who brings us happiness, satisfaction, joy, love and peace. Material possessions do not constitute real riches. Material things are transitory. What we possess materially is subject to loss in a variety of ways. Our wealth can be lost in the stock market or through rust, obsolescence, and thievery. No matter how much money we may have, we have no way of guaranteeing that it can be kept safe and secure. Money can be lost, stolen, or its purchasing power lost through inflation. Investments can decline in value and businesses can fail. Our property can be burned or robbed. All material things can be gone quickly. Even if our material things stay with us, we will eventually leave them, because, at the end, we can take nothing with us. So, if we want to be rich, it cannot be on the basis of material things. Things of this world are much too precarious a foundation on which to build a life. If we are to be rich, we have to turn away from material things and turn toward Christ. Jesus tells us to *“store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”* If we want to get rich, we have to start storing up riches in heaven. To store up treasures in heaven, we first need to love God with all of our heart, soul, and strength and love our neighbors as ourselves; we need to loosen our grip on things of this world; and we need to learn to be content with what we have rather than always wanting more worldly things. Through faith, we are rich. As Christians, we receive the riches of eternal life with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### Prayer:

Lord, You are the provider and controller of all things. Help us to put our trust and faith in You rather than in worldly things. We thank You for Your wonderful love that was shown through Your Son, Jesus. In Your precious name, we pray. Amen.



**St. Michael Lutheran Church**  
**2131 Getz Road**  
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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:  
Third Friday of each month



**ACOLYTE TRAINING FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS:** All 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be trained for Acolyte responsibilities on March 15 and 22 during the Sunday School hour. Sixth graders will begin to acolyte the weekend of May 23-24. If you cannot attend one of these dates, please contact the church office at 432-2033.

**ACOLYTE SCHEDULE:** We will be working on the schedule for May 2009 – May 2010. Postcards have been sent to all 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents regarding personal preferences and available dates. Please return these cards to the church office as soon as possible by Sunday, March 29

Did you know that you could read the newsletter 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.



**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!!**

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

- ☉ Sermons
- ☉ Interactive Calendar
- ☉ Myspace Link for 18-25 YO's
- ☉ Birthdays
- ☉ Newsletter

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

- Paperback for \$15; hardback for \$35
- Children's Bible for \$20
- Study notes and Scripture references
- Words of Christ in red letter
- Concordance
- Maps, charts, diagrams, and illustrations
- Introductions and outlines for each book of the Bible