



Pastor's Annual Report to the Congregation - January 2022

Jesus to Simon Peter: "Put out into deep water, and let down your nets for a catch." Luke 5:4

As we approach the end of year two of the COVID-19 pandemic, I thought it would be instructive to go back and read what I wrote at the end of pandemic year No. 1. I have to tell you I was more than a little surprised at how disruptive the pandemic was to our ministries here at St. Michael that first year. What a blessing it has been to approach something close to normal church operations...weekly indoor worship and Sunday school, in-person Church council meetings, and the return of fellowship events and group meetings, such as 50+, Chancel Choir rehearsals, Bible studies and women's circle meetings. The pandemic isn't completely behind us, but we're getting there, and we are learning more and more with each passing day how to live with it.

But returning to normal doesn't mean returning to "*business as usual*." As I mentioned in my message on Sunday, Jan. 16, Jesus is continually calling us out of the fog, out of our routines, out of "going through the motions." He calls us to continually be seeking God's will for our lives, both individually and corporately as the Body of Christ. *What does that mean for us as the people of God?*

Well, I think it means that we **must not rest on our laurels**. Yes, we have seen some membership growth this past year. And yes, our weekly worship attendance has recovered to near pre-pandemic numbers. And yes, we have continued to reach many others, both members and non-members, through our internet media technologies. And yes, our finances are on solid footing. And yes, we have accomplished some significant spiritual goals this year, especially in the area of discipleship and disciple-making. And I thank God and you for all of this good work. But, all in all, we have still been fishing mostly in shallow waters. We must understand...**there is still much to do!**

Perhaps our most important task is to be willing to follow Jesus' command to "put out in deep water" and "let our nets down there." That is, we as a congregation must **discern God's plans** for our ministry and then find the **faith and courage** to implement those plans. Our ministry in 2022 and beyond must be based solely on Jesus' command that we "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). If the Christian Church in general, and this congregation specifically, are to survive and thrive in the future, we must take the Good News of God to the non-Christians and the "nominal" Christians in our communities, and make every effort to bring them to saving faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ. This is going to take a **major cultural change** in how we do business as the church. We must learn from Jesus how to make disciples. And we must commit ourselves, each and every one of us, to be disciple makers. That is our first and primary task as God's people in the world.

Let me conclude by thanking all of you for your encouragement and prayers during the past year. Your commitment to God and to this church continue to astound and gratify me. Each of you contributes so much in so many ways. Without each of you, our fellowship would not be as strong and effective as it is today. So, hang in there. As I said last year in this report, we are going to get through the COVID crisis. And we will continue to be a light shining in the darkness of the world around us (Matt. 5:15-16). The light we reflect is the light of Jesus Christ. Keep the faith, my friends! God is with us always!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Gibbs





SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

- 8:30am** Traditional Worship
- 9:30am** Coffee Hour
- 9:40am** Sunday School
- 10:45am** Contemporary Worship



We are remembering you with joy and thanks for remembering us with your Mission Collections. You are a wonderful blessing to us and we give thanks for all.

Blessings,

Faith Lutheran Congregation
Pierce, Idaho



We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Violet Miller, infant daughter of Jeremy & Abbie Miller and little sister of Rayna, who so sadly passed away in January. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May God surround you with his love and comfort.

Happy Valentine's Day





A gathering for fun and fellowship!
February 25th 6:00-9:00 pm Gathering Room and gym

Come out to enjoy some music, food and family friendly fun. With the firm onset of winter and the temps dropping, it might seem easy to just stay inside and cozy up with a fire and blanket. Although that sounds nice, how about sharing a song and conversation with your church family? Your Evangelism and Congregational Life Board (ECLB) is hosting an evening at church to share time together. We will have music, games, prayers, pizza and fellowship. Games and activities will be for kids and kids at heart so bring the whole family. Rumor has it there may be a bonfire so be sure to bring your cold weather gear.

If you are interested in sharing your musical talent please connect with Mark Elvey or Carolyn Eaton. Food will include pizza, bottled water and cookies. Feel free to bring something to share if you like but it is not necessary. Music and food will be in the gathering room. Games will be in the gym. Prayer will be wherever the spirit moves us.

The ECLB hopes you will join us for this fun night. If you have any questions you can connect with Carolyn Eaton at 419-250-9374 or carolyneaton122912@yahoo.com



FEBRUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

- 2/6: Mike/Cathy Machcinski to the glory of God.
- 2/13: J/D Hawkins, 26th wedding anniversary
- 2/20: B/K Koevenig, 29th wedding anniversary
- 2/27: Carolyn Eaton, Lawson Stone's birthday

pastor's bible study

Pastor's Bible Study meets on **Tuesdays at 3:00pm** in the Gathering Room. Please join us!



ST. MICHAEL FOOD PANTRY

2nd Saturday of the Month

Time: 9 - 11am

UPCOMING DATES:

February 12, 2022

March 12, 2022

April 9, 2022

For all Monroe County residents experiencing food insecurity.



Men's Fellowship

THE MIGHTY MEN OF ST MICHAEL will meet on **Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022 at 8:30am** in the **Small Fellowship Hall (note room change)**. All St. Michael men are invited and encouraged to join us for breakfast and lively conversation. Questions? Call Gary Sears at 419.349.8158.



CHANCEL CHOIR - meets on Thursdays at 7:30pm in the choir room. Please consider joining us as we continue to make a joyful noise for the Lord!



FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Jon DeWitt Jean Doeblor Ethan Pant J & K Johnstone	3 L & S Kreps	4 Mari Beck Kathy Silvestri Paul Wood	5
6 Kelsie Kennedy	7	8 Julia Gibbs Cris Schmidlin Marty Vernier	9 Arlene Borden M & C Machcinski	10 Harland Jording Abbie Miller Samantha Pirolli J & D Hawkins	11 Peg Beck Thomas Huss	12
13 Carol Packer	14  B & K Koevenig	15	16 Bobbie Nunn	17	18	19
20 Karen Lucht	21  Mandi Randall	22 Morgan Kulwicki Rob Maloy	23 Donna Chambers Lawson Stone	24 Emily Bella Cheri Mannor	25 Harold Borden	26 Lauri Reinhardt S/T Livingstone
27 Bart Sarkisian	28					





50+LUNCHEON

The first luncheon of the new year will be held on Tuesday, February 15, in the Gathering Room at noon. The board will provide soups and salads. Please bring a dessert or bread to share. A special program is being planned. So mark your calendars and watch the weekly announcements for further details!

CARD MINISTRY

The Social Ministry Board will continue to make cards for special occasions for members of our church. Everyone is welcome to join this activity which is held the 4th Wednesday of each month. No experience is necessary; all materials are provided. Join us on Wednesday, February 23, at 9:30 in the Gathering Room for a time of fellowship and service.



Ladies, if you have a cannister and have been saving for the WISC Love Offering, this is a reminder that the cannisters are due back on February 13. Thank you for your generosity!!



ALL WOMEN OF ST. MICHAEL

Please be aware that WISC will be sponsoring a "winter warm-up" in March. Watch the weekly announcements and the March "Herald" for date, time, and other information for this event.



FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

- Feb. 6: 5:30-7:00pm: Confirmation Growth Workshop
 7:00-8:30pm: High School Youth Group
- Feb. 11 - Feb. 13: Middle & High School Springhill retreat
- Feb. 12: Super Bowl Sub Assembly
- Feb. 13: Super Bowl Sub Distribution
- Feb. 20: 5:30-7:00pm: Middle School youth group
 7:00-8:30pm: High School youth group



***Join the
Youth Group***

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Security Plan Update

“Worship Without Worry” – That is the goal for our church functions here in our building, especially on Sunday mornings, with respect to such dangers as tornadoes, fires, emergency medical events, and the presence of unwanted intruders who seek to do us harm. Prior to the emergence of COVID-19, the St. Michael Church Council created a standing committee to implement the measures necessary to keep us safe at all times here in our building, with special emphasis on keeping our St. Michael children safe. Due to COVID, our plans shifted into neutral for about two years. However, your church council believes it is time to refresh those security plans and move forward with implementing them as soon as possible.

With that in mind, this security committee (which actually calls itself the “Security Team”), will be implementing the following tasks in the coming months:

- 1) **Meet with the Michigan State Police** - to review our current security plans to make sure that they include all necessary measures to keep our building and building users safe and secure.
- 2) **Review and update our Security Volunteers List** – those of you who volunteer as ushers and greeters, as well as those of you with special skills such as specialized fire-fighting, security, nursing and first aid training.
- 3) **Provide a Security Training Class** – Open to the whole congregation and conducted by the Michigan State Police.
- 4) **Conduct additional CPR Certification Classes** – for new people needing certification and for those needing recertification.
- 5) **Communicate Security Information** – clearly and succinctly on a regular basis to the congregation.
- 6) **Conduct Security Practice Drills** – occasionally, during worship and Sunday school, so we are comfortable with how to respond when emergency situations arise. We will have more information about this later in the Spring.

Your suggestions and participation in these important activities are welcome and encouraged. Contact Ron Pfenning (Security Team leader), Pastor Gibbs, Mary Evilsizer, Carolyn Eaton, or Gary Sears if you would like additional information.



FEBRUARY SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

Feb. 6 Dave Mull Team
Feb. 13 Brad/Mari Beck
Feb. 20 Kissoff Team
Feb. 27 Holzscheiter Team
Mar. 6 Dave Mull Team

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Feb. 6 Linda Stark
Feb. 20 Bill Mannor
Mar. 6 Linda Stark

READERS

Feb. 6 Nick Huss
Feb. 13 Bill Mannor
Feb. 20 Mike Kurtz
Feb. 27 Taia Sutherland
Mar. 6 Nick Huss

USHERS

Feb. 6 Bart Sarkisian's Team
Feb. 13 Pastor Judy Smith's Team
Feb. 20 Koevenig Team
Feb. 27 Cal Olmstead Team
Mar. 6 Bart Sarkisian's Team

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Feb. 6 Pastor Judy Smith
Feb. 20 Brian Koevenig
Mar. 6 Cal Olmstead



Pat Ahrendt
4560 W. Alexis Rd., #302
Toledo, OH 43623



Kelsie Kennedy
404 N. 8th Street
Unit 21
Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5670

Andrew & Jennifer Rohrer
PSC 81 Box 129
APO AE 09724

Nathan & Jennie Calcamuggio
PSC 851 Box 1042
FPO, AE 09834

SHORT TERM PRAYER REQUESTS * FEBRUARY 2022



Judy Governo (recovering from broken leg due to auto accident)
Sarah (COVID, in hospital ICU; Judy Governo's 2nd cousin)
Tina Vogeli (medical issues)
Jean Schmidlin (recovering from back surgery)
Roger Brushaber (surgery has been postponed)
Herm Kibler (health concerns; friend of Amy & John Fox)
Margret Fox (recovering from strokes; John Fox's mother)
Harland Jording (recovering from hip surgery)
Dave & Dorothy Warner (COVID with other health issues; Belle Osburn's brother & sister-in-law)
Mary Lou Gibbs (chemo treatments for lymphoma; Pastor's mother)
John Pirolli (fractured hip & pelvis; Jeff Pirolli's father)
Mackenzie (16 mo. Old; hospital with COVID & seizures; Rich & Julie Menzel's grand niece)
Kristy (brain tumor; friend of Mary & Roger Brushaber)
Barbara Hatton (cancer; relative of Ted & Jan Lang)
Chris Schmidlin (COVID)
Lonnie Arnold (hospital, awaiting a lung transplant)
Pat Nose (recovering from pneumonia)
Marilyn (recovering from shoulder replacement surgery; Dianne Richason's sister)
Kristy Garcia (brain tumor surgery Thursday; friend of the Brushaber's)
John Kutzke (chemo therapy; Len Kutzke's nephew)
Gary Wilson (hospital; friend of Pastor Judy Smith)
Christine Bischoff (recovering from COVID)
Larry Kreps (recovering from knee surgery)
Jeffrey (fractured ankle; Ted & Jan Lang's grandson)
Ruth Keller (recovering from ankle surgery)
Family & Friends Ben Rohrer (brother of Jean Schroeder's son-in-law)



LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

Our active military personnel: **Dan Clifford, Kelsie Kennedy, Nathan Calcamuggio, Andrew Rohrer, Jacob Fojtik**

Faith Lutheran Church (our mission church in Idaho)
Mexico Mission, Monterrey, Mexico (Pastors Victor, Juan and Enrique)

Dick Laurel
Debbie Blackford
Bobbie Nunn
Jane Eaton
Max Merritt
Laura
Diane
Sarah
John
Diane
Jeff Zigulis
Erick Smith
Amber Kops

PLEASE NOTE: Just a reminder that names on the short term prayer list remain there for one month and then, if they still need prayers, they are moved to the long term prayer list where they will remain until the end of the current year.

**ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5790 W. TEMPERANCE RD.
OTTAWA LAKE, MI 49267
734.856.2944**

CHURCH STAFF 2022

PASTOR , Mark D. Gibbs	419.704.5036 (c)		mdgibbs1000@gmail.com
MINISTER TO TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS , Shawn Jennings	517.294.5954 (c)		shawnjennings17@gmail.com
OFFICE MANAGER , Judy East	734.856.2944 (w)	419.304.7692 (c)	stmichael@bex.net
WORSHIP TEAM LEADER , Mark Elvey	419.691.2845 (c)		melvey@buckeye-express.com
ORGANIST , Rob Paul	419.514.5321 (c)		musicdude9163@yahoo.com
ORGANIST , Rita Bunge	419.392.8909 (c)		bungerita@gmail.com
FINANCIAL SECRETARY , Beth Pauli	419.902.6189 (c)		bethpauli80@gmail.com
CUSTODIAN , Melisha Cole	734.347.9026		melishacole@hotmail.com

CHURCH COUNCIL - EXECUTIVE BOARD 2022

PRESIDENT , Jeremy Miller	734.368.8743	3rd yr/1st tm	jeremymm@d-pcomm.ne
VICE-PRESIDENT			
SECRETARY , Debbie Arnold	419.392.0643	3rd yr/2nd tm	deborah7265@gmail.com
TREASURER , Kathy Silvestri	734.652.3069	2nd yr/2nd tm	ksilvestri10@aol.com

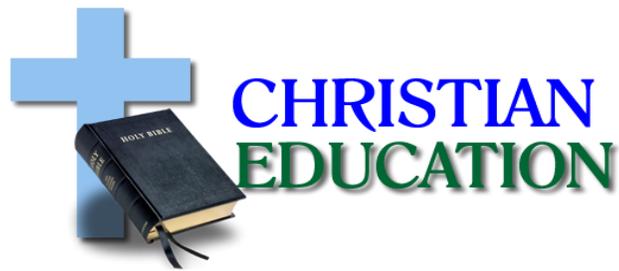
BOARD CHAIRPERSONS

Christian Education , Andrea Sears	419.377.2102	3rd yr/3rd tm	asears@bex.net
Evangelism, Cong. Life , Mark Packer	419.346.1013	2nd yr 2nd tm	mcpakr@bex.net
Worship/Music			
Finance/Human Res. , Rich Menzel	419.388.9031	2nd yr/2nd tm	richmenzel@bex.net
Properties , Ted Lang	419.377.0028	3rd yr/2nd tm	langted@bex.net
Social Ministry , Sharon Rueter	734.847.8661	2nd yr/2nd tm	srueter456@outlook.com
Stewardship			
Youth			

Elected Odd Years: Vice Pres., Secretary, Worship & Music, Christian Ed., Stewardship, Finance/HR

Elected Even Years: Pres., Evangelism/CL, Properties, Social Ministry, Youth

Revised 1/31/2022



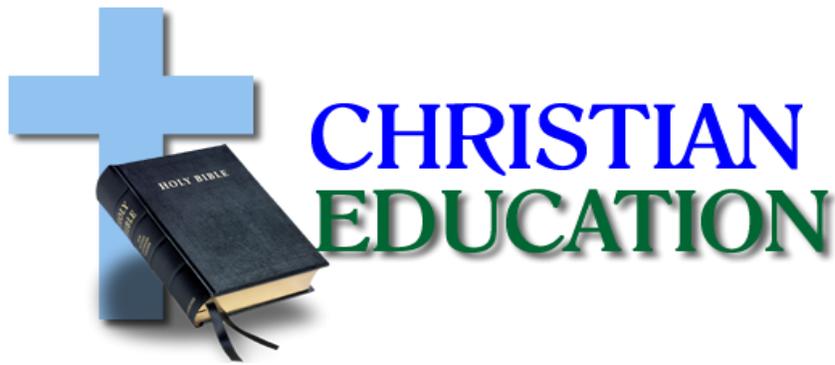
SUNDAY SCHOOL *REMINDERS*

Jan. 2: No classes

Jan. 9: Sunday School Classes resume

**DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE & OFFERING**

Please follow us on FaceBook at www.facebook.com/StMichaelKids



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

If you are unable to join us in person, please join us virtually on Zoom at 9:50am each Sunday.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89919006137?pwd=ZVaTIQ0WkQ4ZDZPY1hqUXBrVGlydz09>

Meeting ID: 899 1900 6137

Passcode: 5690

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

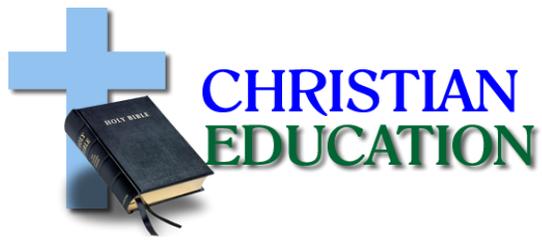
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Becoming His People, can be found here:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/3cev3jceglwe9nk/Deuteronomy_Becoming %20His%20People.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/3cev3jceglwe9nk/Deuteronomy_Becoming%20His%20People.pdf?dl=0)

Adult Sunday School Study Guide for *Meeting the Spirit* can be found here:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/smu6pkzd00wwhgk/Meeting_the_Spirit.pdf?dl=0



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**GROW KIDS
PRE-K THRU GRADE 6**



**GROW STUDENTS
GRADES 7 - 12**

