



On our recent vacation, Julie and I visited a Lutheran congregation in St. Petersburg, Florida. It was a very friendly, very welcoming congregation. It was a joy to worship with them. However, one thing stood out to us immediately ... we (at age 62) were easily the youngest people in the worship service!

I tell you this to make an important point. Much has been written in the media about the fact that the vast majority of Christian churches in America (including St. Michael) are struggling to hang onto and attract younger folks. The St. Petersburg church we visited certainly is an example of what awaits many Christian congregations if things don't change.

Ask the owner or manager of any small business these days and they will tell you that a business cannot rest on its laurels if it intends to survive, grow, and thrive in our ever-changing world. A successful business constantly explores the needs of its customer base, and then evolves to meet the needs of those customers. Churches must emulate these small business practices if they are to survive and thrive in the future.

Our St. Michael congregation has done well in the recent past. In many respects, we are a fairly healthy congregation compared to many other congregations in our area and around the country. But being healthy does not guarantee future prosperity. We must be committed to constantly evaluating the effectiveness of our current ministries. We must be willing to modify, or even shut down, those ministries that are outdated or unneeded. We must be willing to think outside the box about how to reach out to our surrounding communities and to all age groups. We must continually look for new ways to communicate the Good News and make new disciples of Jesus Christ in a constantly changing world.

To do this, we need committed leaders willing to roll up their sleeves and do some hard work. We have seven open Church council leadership positions going into our February annual meeting (see descriptions of these leadership positions following this letter.) I am asking each of you to please prayerfully consider joining our church council. Come and help us chart a new future for our congregation. Together, with good leadership, we can be a congregation that bucks the trend.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Gibbs



Your Church Council Is Looking For Some New Members!

With the approach of the New Year, 2023, it is time to think about adding some new members to our St. Michael church council. The purpose of the church council is to carry out the wishes of the congregation with respect to ministering to our members and to our local communities. The council consists of four officers and eight ministry board chairs. Pastor Gibbs and Shawn Jennings also sit on the council.

This year seven (7) of the twelve council positions need to be filled, due to retirements and term limits of existing members. ***We sincerely urge each member of St. Michael to consider volunteering to serve in one of these seven positions.*** It is a privilege to serve in leadership of God's church. We are confident that you will also find it to be a spiritual growth experience as well. Nothing sharpens your faith like engaging in tangible ministry for God and Jesus, and serving on church council is one place this can happen. If you are looking for a way to make a difference in your church and community, serving on church council is a great way to do it.

Here are the council positions that need to be filled in 2023:

Vice President – Assists the council president with making sure the church operates according to the wishes of the congregation, helps run council meetings, and occasionally takes on temporary assignments to accomplish specific tasks.

Christian Education Ministry Board Chair – Organize and manage the work of this board, which is primarily seeing that education ministries of our congregation are planned, staffed, and offered (Sunday School, Adult Bible classes, Confirmation ministry, Vacation Bible School).

Stewardship Ministry Board Chair – Organize and manage the work of this board, which is primarily to assist the pastor in encouraging congregation members to use their God-given gifts of time, talents, and financial resources to serve the Kingdom of God.

Evangelism & Congregational Life Ministry Board Chair – Organize and manage the work of this board, which is two-fold: 1) offering fellowship opportunities to our members and 2) taking the Gospel of Christ outside the walls of our church to our local communities.

Worship & Music Ministry Board Chair – Organize and manage the work of this board, which is primarily to assist the pastor with carrying out the various tasks necessary to conduct the church's worship services, and help plan any special services and themes throughout the church year.

Youth Ministry Board Chair – Organize and manage the work of this board, which is primarily to assist the youth minister in planning and offering youth ministry activities throughout the year.

Social Ministry Board Chair – Organize and manage the work of this board, which is primarily to plan and offer members opportunities to serve through outreach to our local communities.

If you are interested in learning more about one of these open positions, please contact Pastor Gibbs or one of the current council members.





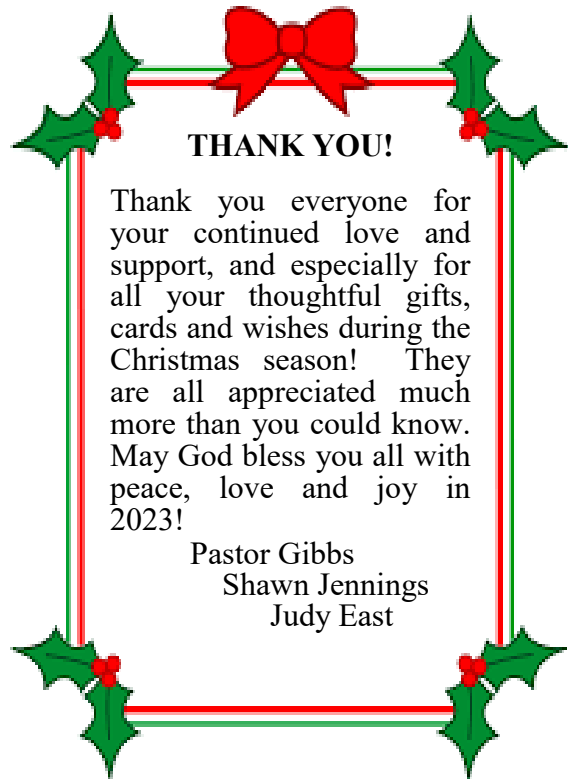
SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:30am	Traditional Worship
9:30am	Coffee Hour
9:40am	Sunday School, All Ages
10:45am	Contemporary Worship



THANK YOU - Kathy and I want to express our heartfelt thanks to the entire St. Michael congregation for your wonderful cards, meaningful prayers and follow-ups on my recent surgery. We felt them all as well as God's presence the entire time. A special thanks to Pastor Gibbs for his caring and attention to our family. We are so humbled and blessed to be a part of St. Michael. God Bless All of you.

Ron & Kathy Pfenning





Growing In Christ Initiative, Part II

Lessons in Christian Living



During the Fall, we discovered numerous ways God has assured us of His love and care. This Spring we will spend some time looking at the proper Christian response to these assurances from God.

Pastor Gibbs will begin the preaching component of this series on **Sunday, January 15.**

The topics for this series session are:

January 15 & 22	Chapter 6 – <i>Putting Christ First</i>
January 29 & February 5	Chapter 7 – <i>Accessing God's Strength</i>
February 12 & 19	Chapter 8 – <i>Relying on God's Word</i>
February 26 & March 5	Chapter 9 – <i>Responding With Love</i>

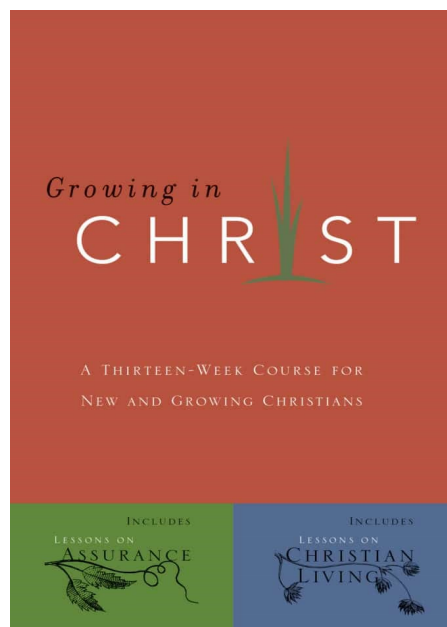
Discussion Groups will begin the week of January 15, as follows:

Tuesdays at 3 pm (First class January 17)

Wednesdays at 6 pm (First class January 18)

Thursdays at 9:30 am (First class January 19)

Please talk with Pastor Gibbs if you have any additional questions.





JANUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

Jan. 08 Pastor Mark Gibbs
Jan. 15 Jeremy & Abbie Miller
Jan. 22 Glory of God
Jan. 29 Bill & Cheri Mannor



ST. MICHAEL FOOD PANTRY

2nd Saturday of the Month
Time: 9:30 - 11am

UPCOMING DATES:

Jan. 14, 2023
Feb. 11, 2023
Mar. 11, 2023

For all Monroe County residents
experiencing food insecurity.

FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Average Attendance: 152

Sunday Offering:

*YTD income as of 11/30/22 : \$303,623
*YTD expenses as of 11/30/22: \$290,056

*Actual figures after bank reconciliation

pastor's bible study

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

RESUMES: January 17, 2023



Men's Fellowship

THE MIGHTY MEN OF ST MICHAEL will meet
on **Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023 at 8:30am** in the Gather-
ing Room. All St. Michael men are invited and en-
couraged to join us for breakfast and lively conversa-
tion. Questions? Call the church office.



MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Eve Circle - January 10, 2023, 7:00pm



ATTENTION ALL WOMEN OF ST. MICHAEL

The women of Eve Circle would like to invite you to join us as we continue to meet each month. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Gathering Room. We would love to welcome you to our group!

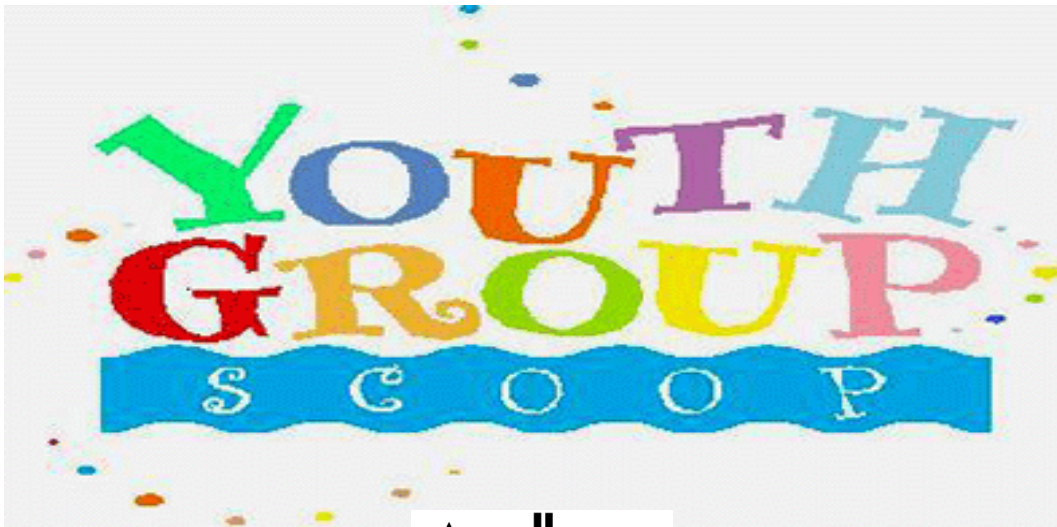


HOLIDAY BAZAAR

A Big Success!

The Bazaar was very successful with a net profit of \$5,965.37. The following are the approved allocations of the Bazaar's 2022 profits.

\$ 200.00:	St. Michael Lutheran Church (compensation for use of facility)
\$ 2,765.37:	St. Michael Food Pantry
\$ 500.00:	Whiteford Twp. (StoneCo. Park—Playground Equipment)
\$ 500.00:	St. Paul's Community Ctr., Toledo
\$ 500.00:	Domestic Violence Ctr., Monroe
\$ 500.00:	Susie's Coats for Kids
\$ 500.00:	Build A Bed
\$ 500.00:	Gabriel's Closet
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$5,965.37	



JANUARY YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

1/8 - Youth Group 7:00 - 8:30
1/20 - Pizza and movie hangout 6:30
1/22 - Youth Group 7:00 - 8:30
1/29 - Youth Group 7:00 - 8:30



MEETINGS IN JANUARY

9:30am - Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023
Social Ministry Card-Makers



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School resumes on **January 8!** Please join us each Sunday at 9:40am. We have classes for 3 years old through adult! **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



A huge **THANK YOU** to all the St. Michael youth who participated in the Christmas Program, "The Christmas Story." Also, special thanks to the parents and helpers for making this program possible! We couldn't have done this without you!

THANK YOU to everyone who donated goodies for our Christmas Gift Bags for the children, and also for the delicious cookies for the Coffee Hour following the program.



The annual youth weekend retreat at Spring Hill will be **February 3-5**. For more information, see Shawn Jennings.

It's time for.....

SUPER BOWL SUBS!



With the Super Bowl right around the corner, the youth will once again be selling sub sandwiches. Orders will be taken between services on Jan. 15, 22, 29 & Feb. 5. Pick up will be on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 13. Don't miss out! Be sure to pre-order your subs!



ATTENDANCE /OFFERING

Dec. 04 - 27/\$0

Dec. 11 - 34/\$2

Dec. 18 - No Sunday School

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Life Guide Bible Study - *Meeting God*

Lessons 3, 4, 5 & 6



GROW KIDS - PRE-K - 5TH GRADE

A 5-week series from the New Testament about Jesus' early life & ministry

A Day at the Museum

Museums have the unique ability to transform learning! Instead of merely reading words on a page, we can experience them through all of our senses! This series is all about helping kids interact with the stories of Jesus and connecting them to God. Jesus' life and early ministry help all of us experience (see, hear...even taste!) and follow God in new, tangible and real ways.

*Please follow us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/stmichaelkids

JANUARY SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

Jan. 08 Brad Beck's Team
Jan. 15 Kissoff Team
Jan. 22 Beth Pauli's Team
Jan. 29 Kissoff Team

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Jan. 08 Bill Mannor/Linda Stark
Jan. 22 Peter Kramp

READERS

Jan. 08 Bill Mannor
Jan. 15 Taia Sutherland
Jan. 22 Peter Kramp
Jan. 29 Mike Kurtz

USHERS

Jan. 08 Bart Sarkisian's Team
Jan. 15 Cal Olmstead's Team
Jan. 22 Koevenig Team
Jan. 29 Tina Calhoun's Team

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Jan. 08 S. Jennings/K. Silvestri
Jan. 22 Brian Koevenig



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



Check out the active military member plaques on the wall by the Information Center in the Gathering Room. We recently refurbished this wall. And, please remember these young servants in your prayers.

Kelsie Kennedy
(Kelsie is currently
deployed for the
next 6 mos., no
address available.)

Andrew & Jennifer Rohrer
PSC 81 Box 129
APO AE 09724

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

SHORT TERM PRAYER REQUESTS *



William Chappell (return of cancer)
Bridget Allen (beginning treatments for brain inflammation; Judy East's granddaughter)
Brian (brain infection; friend of Taia Sutherland)
Larry (kidney problems; friend of Rich & Julie Menzel)
Conner Hoogendoorn (esophageal cancer)
Tony Rotondo (surgery for brain tumor; Mari Beck's cousin)
Jamie (triple bypass surgery; friend of Beth Pauli)
Mario (intestinal blockage, swollen pancreas, pneumonia; Mari Beck's brother)
Martha Heck (lung cancer; friend of Sharon Rueter)
Paul Wood (upcoming knee surgery)
John & Daughter (daughter has mental health issues; Ted Lang is John's Kairos "inside brother")
Scott Wagner (upcoming tests; Julie Menzel's brother)
Deb (adult RSV)
Misty (recovering from surgery)
PJ (in hospital on a respirator for double pneumonia; Taia Sutherland's cousin)
Alexa (breast cancer; Janet Hutchinson's cousin)
Lauri Marsh (recovering from ulcer)
Ron Pfenning (ongoing treatment for a bladder issue)
Family & Friends of Robert Lucht (Mike Lucht's father)

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)

Richard Laurell

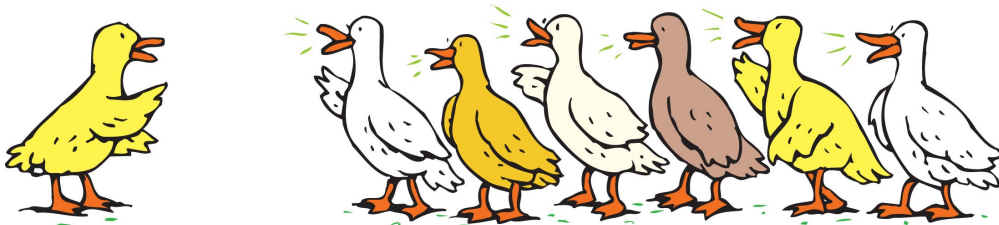
Ginnette

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Diana Beck Jeanie Holzscheiter	2 <i>Brad & Katie Heineman</i>	3 Bill Mannor	4	5 Logan Lykowski	6	7
8 Dan Olsen	9	10	11	12	13 Pam Alexander	14 Mary Kulwicki
15	16 <i>Roger & Mary Brushaber</i>	17	18 Doreen Pant	19	20 Daniel Bunge Rob Paul	21
22 Sandra Fisher	23 Shawn Kreps Terry Potter	24 Rita Bunge	25 Samuel Packard	26	27 Ken Chambers	28 Zach Dickerson
29	30 Neil Maloy David Zolg <i>Brian & Doreen Pant</i>	31 Kathleen Pfenning				



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 5, 2023

12:00 pm (Noon)

Immediately following the
10:45am Worship Service

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5790 W. TEMPERANCE RD.
OTTAWA LAKE, MI 49267
734.856.2944
Email: stmichael@bex.net
Website: stmichaellcmc.org

CHURCH STAFF 2022

PASTOR, Mark D. Gibbs

MINISTER TO TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS, Shawn Jennings

OFFICE MANAGER, Judy East

WORSHIP TEAM LEADER, Mark Elvey

CHOIR DIRECTOR, Peter Kramp

ORGANIST, Rob Paul

ORGANIST, Rita Bunge

FINANCIAL SECRETARY, Beth Pauli

CUSTODIAN, Melisha Cole

CHURCH COUNCIL - EXECUTIVE BOARD 2022

PRESIDENT, Jeremy Miller	1st yr 2nd tm
VICE-PRESIDENT	
SECRETARY, Debbie Arnold	1st yr 2nd tm
TREASURER, Kathy Silvestri	2nd yr 1st tm

BOARD CHAIRPERSONS 2022

Christian Education, Andrea Sears	
Evangelism, Cong. Life, Mark Packer	2nd yr 1st tm
Worship/Music	
Finance/Human Res., Rich Menzel	2nd yr 1st tm
Properties, Ted Lang	1st yr 2nd tm
Social Ministry, Sharon Rueter	
Stewardship,	
Youth,	

***Call the church office for contact information
if you wish to communicate with any of these staff or council members.**

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

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

Revised 11/02/22