

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

(see calendar for complete list)

April 8
May Newsletter Deadline

April 11, 12:30pm
Elders' Luncheon

April 14, 12:15pm
Lunch & Learn

April 15, 7pm
Book Club

April 22, 6:30pm
Church Board Meeting

May 5, 12:30pm
Congregational Meeting

CONNECTIONS

A publication of:
St. Michael Lutheran Church
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- St. Michael *Connections* is published monthly.
- Deadline for copy is generally the second Monday of each month, but watch the bulletin for specific dates.
- Articles may be submitted for publication subject to content.
- Please submit articles to the church office or email to the editor prior to 2nd Monday deadline.

For weekly updates, visit our website at:
smlucanton.org/happenings

"No great saint lived without errors."
~ Martin Luther

What's Next?

Now that we have finished the Habits of Healthy Churches sermon series and the cottage meetings, many are asking, what's next? Believe it or not, there is even more coming in this season than we experienced in the previous season.

After Easter you can expect a lot of activity at St. Michael as we continue this intentional process in this season of transition. Remember, the three areas of emphasis for the transition are healing, getting healthier and preparing for the next Pastor.

Here are some (but not all) of the things that you can expect after Easter:

The Report

Perhaps the most significant thing coming is the Report of the Intentional Interim Pastor which will be comprehensive, covering a wide variety of things and will include the information gathered in the cottage meetings. There will be a congregational presentation of the report as a part of this process.

Education, Education, Education

Besides the report, the key activity of this next part of this season of transition is education. We will be providing a number of educational opportunities for the congregation to equip and empower us all. We will also continue to do specific work with our various leadership groups, including the staff, executive board and elders.

Staffing

We are currently in the process of searching for a Worship and Discipleship Minister and are praying God will lead us to the right person sooner rather than later. We will also begin the work to start a search for a full time Children's Ministry Director.

Congregational Meeting

We will have our next congregational meeting on May 5 where we will engage in the process of selecting Deacons (Executive Board Members) and make a number of changes to the constitution and bylaws. More information about the meeting, the board candidates and the bylaws will be coming ahead of the meeting.

A Season of 'All Hands on Deck'

After the report is shared, there will be a lot of work to do to continue to get healthier and prepare for the next pastor including making key decisions, creating key policies, strengthening our ministry, clarifying our identity and much more. We need to continue to build our ministry teams and are going to need everyone to pitch in for this season and beyond.

The Call Process

We will begin the work of the call process in this next season as well. The exact timing is still unknown as there is a lot of pre-work to do. The earliest the process would begin would be after the May congregational meeting.

It's going to be an exciting, intense, busy season of great, but hard work! We need everyone to be engaged as much as possible, with our focus on healthy engagement. As always, if you have questions, concerns or encouragement, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Pastor Marcus



Sermon Series “Miracles of Jesus”

After Easter, we will begin a six-week sermon series called “The Miracles of Jesus”. We will explore and journey through some of the well known and not so well known miracles of Jesus and reflect on what they mean for our lives today as we seek to follow Jesus.



Adult Bible Study

The adult Bible study, “John’s Letters – Discovering Genuine Christianity”, continues on Sunday mornings through May 12 at 10am in the chapel. In each of John’s epistles, he provides strong assurance to those whose lifestyle is consistent with their faith in Jesus. Each session is a stand alone topic so drop in any week. Grab a beverage and a snack from the coffee bar and join us for a time of fellowship, learning, and discussion. Contact Greg Anderson with questions at 734-968-4463.

Women’s Bible Study

St. Michael women and friends – you aren’t alone in feeling alone! Join us beginning Monday, April 8 at 10am or 7pm for a new study called *Find Your People*. Never in history have we been more connected yet felt more isolated. This study looks at the original community in Genesis, the Trinity, and the creation to see what God had planned for us all along. **This isn't a cheesy, feel-good study about how to make friends. It offers practical solutions for creating true community in an isolated world. Engaging in loving, intimate connection as God intended is a type of spiritual warfare, so let's start fighting together!** Three ways to sign up: **1.** Online at the Women’s Ministry page at <https://smlucanton.org/ministries/women>. **OR 2.** Text Jennifer Powell at 734-262-1495 with your name & email. **OR 3.** Leave a voicemail for Jennifer at 734-262-1495 with your name & email. **Please note:** Childcare is available for the evening sessions.



Wednesday Night Education Series

For April and May we will be offering special educational opportunities on various topics on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:30pm in the Chapel. These are open to all. Here is the current lineup. If you have questions or are interested in teaching a topic yourself, please contact Pastor Marcus.

April 3	Spiritual Disciplines: What and Why	Amy Bruhn
April 10	What is LCMC?	Pastor Marcus
April 17	Habits of Healthy Leaders	Pastor Marcus
April 24	TBD	
May 1	TBD	
May 8	Spiritual Gifts	Pastor Marcus
May 15	Church Leadership Basics	Pastor Marcus
May 22	How (not) to Save the World	Lisa Wall



Springtime, new life, resurrection, hope. God, help me hold onto an Easter focus all season long.

Quilter's Corner

Happy April!!

Are you recently retired and looking for a way to fill some of your new-found free time serving God and others? Come join our group. In April, we will meet on April 9 and 23 at 9:30am in the Sarah Room. Perhaps you would like to sew quilt tops at home. Let us know so we can give you fabric to prepare the tops at your convenience and drop off at your convenience.

The quilts are prepared and given to those in need around the world through Lutheran World Relief and also distributed to those in need affected by disasters in the United States.

Donations of fabric and sheets can be placed in the purple bin in the cupboard by the gym.

"Quilting with Friends binds our Hearts and Souls together"

Contact Cathy Nichol at 734-674-6721 for more information.



KAHC Thank You!

Many thanks to all who were involved in this year's Kids Against Hunger Coalition event. Whether you prayed, donated funds, or volunteered to pack, it was greatly appreciated. This was the largest amount of volunteers we have ever had from both inside and outside of St. Michael - 160 volunteers! *We packed 20,000 meals!* We will continue to accept monetary donations which will go to next year's event. We're hoping to have more funds next year to prepare even more meals!

Speaking of next time, **SAVE THE DATE!** The next KAHC is March 8, 2025.



YOUTH AND FAMILY

Youth Mission Trip Fundraisers

There are several fundraising events that the youth have planned to help fund their future mission trips. Please consider helping out wherever you can:

April 20/21 & April 27/28
Envelope Drive

May 19
Bake Sale

June 20-22
Rummage Sale



Rummage Sale

The annual Rummage Sale will be June 20-22 from 9am-4pm. We can start accepting donations on May 1 so start gathering your cast-offs!



Youth Mission Trip

There are still several openings for the Youth Mission Trip on July 6-13. The deadline to sign up is April 30. The cost is \$350. Please contact Connor Boyer with any questions at connorboyer@smlucanton.org.

Save the date!
St. Michael VBS is July 28-31

Good Shepherd, in you I have everything I need. Thank you for guiding me along the path of life.

Eldersiversity Luncheon



Eldersiversity is planning an in-house luncheon including a performance by a favorite, Matt Watroba (folk music). Veteran performer, teacher, radio host, song writer...the list goes on, but what Matt prefers to be known as is a community singer, song leader and educator. He was raised in Plymouth and taught in the Plymouth-Canton school district for 12 years. Matt is a founding member of the National Folk Alliance and a charter member of the Board of Directors for Ann Arbor's The Ark. His love of folk music led him to his position as the host and creator of the popular Folks Like Us program, a position he held for over 20 years on WDET-FM In Detroit.

Thursday, April 11 at 12:30pm in the gym
Lee's Chicken box lunch
\$10.00 for lunch and entertainment

These luncheons are always enjoyable and this is a great opportunity to invite family and friends to a fun afternoon. Sign up and pay in the office. Call Kathy Fox with any questions at 734-945-7437.

Lunch and Learn Opportunity

We are going to experiment with a new learning initiative for the congregation during this season of transition, called Lunch and Learn. Our first Lunch and Learn will be after the second service on Sunday April 14, 12:15pm-



2:00pm in the gym. During these Lunch and Learn Sessions, Marcus will teach on a particular topic over lunch. A free will offering to cover the lunch will be taken. Our topic will be: "Working Genius: Finding Greater Joy and Productivity in Your Work". We spend a large portion of our lives working, not just in our careers, but in our volunteer work and running our homes. When people are able to better understand the types of work that bring them more energy and fulfillment and avoid work that leads to frustration and failure, they can be more self-aware, more productive and more successful. This primer will introduce you to Working Genius and help you find more joy, effectiveness and productivity in all the work you do.

This Lunch and Learn option comes at the suggestion of the staff, board and elders who all completed the Working Genius learning experience and individual and team inventories. If you want to take the inventory ahead of the Lunch and Learn session, please reach out to the church office. While the seminar is free, the inventory costs \$25.



Book Club

All women are warmly invited and encouraged to attend our monthly book club meetings. They are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm in the Arrow room. All books can be bought through any book vendor. We discuss the entire book during one evening rather than a chapter by chapter approach.

Our book selection for the April 15 meeting is "The Keeper of Lost Things" by Ruth Hogan.

If you have any questions, or would like to be added to the email list, please contact Amy Bruhn at (313) 563-2782 or at amy.bruhn@gmail.com.

The risen Jesus invites us into peace as we touch his scarred body. May we, the body of Christ, share his peace with one another by touching each other's lives with love.

Music Updates / Opportunities

Praise Team Opportunity - Our contemporary Praise Team is looking for musicians to join us in leading worship at the 11am Contemporary service! We are looking for singers, guitar players (acoustic and electric), bass guitar players, keyboard/piano players, and drum players. If you love to praise God through music and have a talent to share, contact Desiree Tomayko at desiree.tomayko@gmail.com or at (734) 658-4613.

Special Music - Do you have a musical gift that you would like to share in worship? We are always looking for special music pieces for our services. If you are interested, please contact Desiree Tomayko at (734) 658-4613 or at desiree.tomayko@gmail.com.

Choir - Do you like to sing? We are always looking for more people to join the choir. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm in the chapel. No audition required, just show up! Please contact Judy Reger with questions at 734-455-3565.

Bell Choir - We could use some more people to join the bell choir. Our rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6:15pm in the Abraham room. If you would like more information about this wonderful group of people, call Dave or Michelle Snyder at 734-658-1871.

Music Contacts - In this interim period, these are the contact people for the various aspects of worship:

Desiree Tomayko - Contemporary music

Judy Reger - Choir director; *new and returning members are welcome!*

Dave Snyder - Bell choir; *new and returning members are welcome!*

Connor Boyer - worship slides

Caleb Gilbert - preservice announcement slides



Lost & Found

The Lost & Found bin is overflowing! Please check and see if any of your belongings are there. The bin is located in the hallway across from the library. In May (date to be determined), there will be a table in the lobby with anything leftover for a last chance of re-claiming ownership. Any unclaimed items will be placed in the June rummage sale.



Red Cross Blood Drive

The next blood drive is Tuesday, April 2 at 10am-3pm in the gym. Sign up on the bulletin board, online at RedCrossBlood.org, or call 1-800-733-2767 (sponsor code: sheldonchurches). Thank you for giving this gift of life!

Detroit Lutheran Singers

The Detroit Lutheran Singers announce their spring concert series dates:

Saturday, April 13 at 7pm
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
27475 Five Mile Rd. / Livonia

Sunday, April 14 at 3pm
St. Philip's Episcopal Church
100 Romeo Rd. / Rochester

Saturday, April 20 at 7pm
Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church
438 St. Antoine / Detroit

Sunday, April 21 at 3pm
Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church
16935 W. 14 Mile Rd. / Beverly Hills

Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 seniors and students over 12. They may be purchase online at detroitlutheransingers.com or at the door.



God sets a table before us and anoints us with the oil of gladness; our cup overflows
(see Psalm 23:5; 45:7).



LIFT UP THE WORD LIGHT UP THE WORLD

2 SAMUEL 22:29-31

THE 73rd ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024



The church sanctuary will be open and available for prayer on the National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 2 from noon-1pm.

The theme verse this year is "Lift Up the Word - Light Up the World" and is based on 2 Samuel 22: 29-31

For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICES CLOSED 6:00 Evening Prayer 6:00 Trail Life Navigators & Adventurers	2 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Blood Drive	3 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St 9:00 Open Door Ministry 10:00 GriefShare 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Wednesday Night Education Series "Spiritual Disciplines"	4 11:00 Senior Bible Study 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 HS Youth Group 7:30 Choir	5 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St	6 5:30 Worship
7 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School-all ages 10:00 Children's Ministry Advisory Group 11:00 Worship/Communion	8 MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:00 Find Your People 6:00 Evening Prayer 6:00 AHG 6:00 Trail Life Woodland 6:00 Trail Life Navigators & Adventurers 7:00 Find Your People	9 9:00 Staff Meeting 9:30 LWR Quilters 6:00 Elders	10 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St 10:00 GriefShare 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Wednesday Night Education Series "What is LCMC?" 8:00 Mission & Outreach	11 11:00 Senior Bible Study 12:30 Eldersivity Luncheon 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 HS Youth Group 7:30 Choir	12 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St	13 12:00 Trail Life Nerf Wars 5:30 Worship/Communion
14 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Sunday School-all ages 11:00 Worship 12:15 Lunch & Learn "Working Genius"	15 10:00 Find Your People 6:00 Evening Prayer 6:00 Trail Life Navigators & Adventurers 7:00 Find Your People 7:00 Book Club	16 9:00 Staff Meeting	17 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Wednesday Night Education Series "Habits of Healthy Leaders"	18 11:00 Senior Bible Study 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 HS Youth Group 7:30 Choir	19 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St	20 5:30 Worship Youth Envelope Drive
21 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School-all ages 11:00 Worship/Communion Youth Envelope Drive	22 10:00 Find Your People 6:00 Evening Prayer 6:00 AHG 6:00 Trail Life Woodland 6:00 Trail Life Navigators & Adventurers 6:30 Church Board 7:00 Find Your People	23 9:00 Staff Meeting 9:30 LWR Quilters 9:30 Newsletter Staff	24 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St 10:00 GriefShare 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Wednesday Night Education Series-TBD	25 11:00 Senior Bible Study 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 HS Youth Group 7:30 Choir	26 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St	27 5:30 Worship/Communion Youth Envelope Drive
28 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Sunday School-all ages 11:00 Worship Youth Envelope Drive	29 10:00 Find Your People 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Find Your People	30 9:00 Staff Meeting				



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www.smlucanton.org**

Rev. Dr. Marcus Carlson
Intentional Interim Lead Pastor

Rev. Tim Ewell
Associate Pastor

Worship Saturday 5:30 PM
Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Jesus loves:

