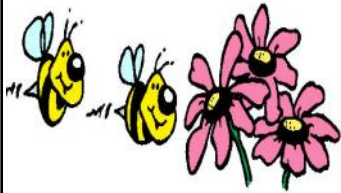


ST. MICHAEL CONNECTIONS



June, 2015

Volume 15, Issue 6

IT'S SUMMER?

Special Points of Interest
(see calendar for complete list)

June 7, 11:00 AM

New Member Sunday

June 7, 12:15 PM

New Member Luncheon

June 15

Newsletter Deadline

June 16, 7:00 AM

Cedar Point Trip,

June 17, 8:00 PM

Church Council

June 17-20

Rummage Sale

June 21

Happy Father's Day!

June 23, 10:00 AM

Seasoned Citizens Coffee

So, this is Michigan! One day I was running my air conditioning in my house. The next day my wife finally persuaded me to turn on our furnace. One day it seemed like summer. The next day I was thumbing through the newspaper for news on the Lions games. It seemed like fall! What season is this?

In life everyone goes through seasons. It might be easy to look back and see the seasons of life you have been through. Sometimes it is harder to see what season you are in. Some retire, and then go back to work. Some, like Linda and me, are empty nesters who wind up caring for twins. Some are in a season of employment with a particular company, only to find themselves in another season with another company, or in a different field altogether.



vitality, do you want to be? Do you have a plan to be? What might have led to past seasons of vitality? What will you be doing this season to grow your faith?

Before Jesus returned to the Father, He told His followers to remain in Jerusalem until they were "clothed with power from on high." They were going to enter into a new season of spiritual power and faithfulness. But, they needed preparation for that season. On the day of Pentecost, they were found gathered together, praying, worshiping, looking forward to what God was going to do. None of them knew for certain what that would be. But, they were found in His presence, so He might work. And He did work. The Spirit descended on them so powerfully that everyone around stood up and took notice.

Believers also go through seasons in their faith. Seasons when faith is growing and alive and God is intimate and close. And there are seasons when faith seems dry and God seems distant. You might stop and look back and see pretty clearly the seasons of your faith life. The question is, what season are you in right now? What season do you want to be in? If you aren't in a season of spiritual

Before you know it, it will be fall. Summer will be gone. Summer is a season of growth. We have great opportunities this summer for you to be found as were the disciples, gathered with other believers in worship and in prayer and studying His word. Seek Him while He may be found. This is the season of Pentecost. The season of the Spirit's working. This summer, seek Him. 'Tis the season.

ST. MICHAEL
CONNECTIONS
A publication of
St. Michael Lutheran Church
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St. Michael Connections is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs and ministries of the church. Deadline for copy is generally the third Monday of each month, but watch the bulletin for specific dates.

For weekly updates, visit our web site at:

www.connectingwithGod.org

Articles may be submitted for publication subject to content. Please submit articles to the church office or email to the editor (at above email address) prior to 3rd Monday deadline.

The origin of Father's Day

One Sunday in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd listened to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. Dodd wondered why there wasn't a day to honor fathers, so she arranged a tribute to her father at a church in Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many people believe this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another account holds that a West Virginia church held a tribute service for fathers in 1908, following a mine explosion that killed 360 men. Regardless of which story is correct, President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to designate a special day to honor fathers. In 1924, he proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

What is a Dad?

A dad is someone who wants to catch you before you fall but instead picks you up, brushes you off, and lets you try again.

A dad is someone who wants to keep you from making mistakes but instead lets you find your own way, even though his heart breaks in silence when you get hurt.

A dad is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail.

—Unknown

BIBLE STUDIES

Bible Studies



Summer Bible Study

A new bible study is underway at 7 PM in the Chapel on Wednesdays. The study focuses on Jesus calling and training the disciples to walk in His footsteps when establishing the Early Church. Each session will feature a video message from gifted bible teacher and Historian Ray VanderLaan followed by open discussion. See the Bible come alive in unique faith lessons highlighting the historical, geographical, and cultural content of God's Word. If you regularly participate in bible studies — don't take the summer off. If you have been unable to find time during the school year perhaps summer provides a unique opportunity. Come and give it a try. Call Greg Anderson 734-453-0861 for additional information.

Want to Take Crossways: The Divine Drama?

We just completed the first Crossways: Divine Drama Bible study last month and are planning to offer this survey, in-depth study of the Biblical story line and its applications to our lives again this coming fall.

Crossways will be offered again on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 PM beginning in Sept. and running 28 to 30 weeks, breaking for holidays, other times and ending in mid-May. Pr Tim will be leading this study in the Portable. Some advanced preparation is encouraged but one can simply come to class each week for the presentation and discussions. There is a very user-friendly textbook with excellent graphics and accompanying workbooks.

This class is ideal and worked well this past year for people who were beginners to Bible study to those who have taken many classes including other in-depth studies like Bethel and to those somewhere in between. If you have always wanted

to take a longer Bible study course and/or have never studied the Biblical narrative from beginning to end, this is a great option for you. There is strong emphasis in all lessons on practical life applications as well. Regardless of your experience in Bible study or where you presently are at with your walk with the Lord, you will be able to grow and feed upon God's Word at your own pace and level by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A sign-up sheet will be on the Pastor's Board. Advanced registration is required. The cost of materials is \$35. Couples may share materials. Cash or checks payable to St. Michael Lutheran Church are acceptable and payment can be submitted to the office or Pastor Tim. This class is open to non-members as well. Child care is available. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tim at church 734-459-3333 or timewell@connectingwithGod.org. Thanks!



CROSSWAYS
INTERNATIONAL

Sharing God's Timeless Story Worldwide

Alpha is coming to St. Michael!

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, honest and informal environment. NO PRESSURE. NO FOLLOW UP. NO CHARGE. **Alpha** is for everyone and welcomes people from all backgrounds, religions and viewpoints. Typically Alpha has ten sessions that include food, a short talk and a time of small group discussion where you can share your thoughts.

Alpha is *relational*. We all desire to belong somewhere. Through good food and vibrant small group discussion, **Alpha** provides genuine hospitality and the space for authentic friendships.

Alpha is *engaging*. **Alpha** is intellectually engaging in a way that resonates with culture. The message of the gospel is clearly and rationally communicated through 15 foundational talks.

Alpha is *powerful*. **Alpha** creates the space and the time for the Spirit of God to do what only He can do. Faith moves beyond an intellectual exercise and becomes the foundation for a life transformed by God.

We will offer **Alpha** at St. Michael on Monday evenings from Sept 14 through Nov 30. There will be one "away" date on Saturday, Oct 31. The away venue will be local but has not yet been selected. The lessons are as follows and will be led by St. Michael facilitators. Pr. Dave will lead the away day Holy Spirit Sessions.

Introduction Dinner-Is there more to life than this?

Session 1-Who is Jesus?

Session 2-Why did Jesus die?

Session 3-How can we have faith?

Session 4-Why and how do I pray?

Session 5-Why and how should I read the Bible?

Session 6-How does God guide us?

Day Away-

Who is the Holy Spirit?

What does the Holy Spirit do?

How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

Session 7-How can I resist evil?

Session 8-Why and how should I tell others?

Session 9-Does God heal today?

Session 10-What about the Church?

Information on how to sign up and purchase the course manual (inexpensive) will follow in the July, 2015 newsletter.

For more information or if you would like to teach/facilitate, go to alphausa.org or speak to Barbara Weide or Lois Beerbaum.



MISSIONS & OUTREACH



DME Loan Closet

Last newsletter we were in need of an automated blood pressure kit. This is not a common item yet. One was donated and promptly put to good use. Hallelujah! Always needed: 4-wheeled walkers, bed-side commodes, transfer tub benches, tub seats/chairs.



AAA Pregnancy Resource Center Baby Bottle Campaign

Mother's Day, May 10 through Father's Day, June 21, 2015

These special days are the perfect start and end dates for a Baby Bottle Campaign! This campaign makes it easy for you to participate in the ministry of the AAA Pregnancy Resource Center. Just pick up a bottle as you leave church today and fill it with coins and cash or checks payable to the AAA Pregnancy Resource Center. Then bring the bottle back to church by Father's Day. Help us celebrate the fact that EVERY LIFE is sacred!



Check out the AAAPRC website to see how this ministry is helping expecting mothers with unplanned pregnancies.
www.aaaprc.org

Kids Against Hunger Update

Kids Against Hunger May 3rd. A heartfelt thanks to the 139 volunteers who packaged 25,812 meals in under two hours and also to the generous supporters who contributed financially for the purchase of materials. A special thank you to Open Door Ministry of Canton who will distribute meals to needy families in our area. St. Michael will look forward to sponsoring more Kids Against Hunger events in the future.



Hope Clinic

Hope Clinic cordially invites you to a special evening to honor Daniel Heffernan, M.D. and Beverly Heffernan on Thursday, June 11, 2015. The evening will begin at 6:00 at Fox Hills Country Club, 8768 North Territorial Rd in Plymouth. Join us for a wonderful evening as we carry on the legacy of Dr. Dan's vision and leadership of Hope Clinic. If you have a special written memory of Dr. Dan or Bev, please bring it with you to place in a memory basket. Cost is \$50 per ticket, registration is available online at thehopeclinic.org or contact Jean Horak at 734-484-2989 for more info.



Update from Brown's Ministry

A representative from Brown's Ministry visited our church in January and presented what their mission does and how our church's support of this mission allows them to minister to people in the Cass Corridor area of Detroit. They have provided an update on their ministry:

"Ministry continues on a daily basis, whether it be through street ministry or children/youth ministries. The goals continue to be: Biblical character building and teaching/training the youth.

Among the summer activities we are focusing on are the '5 Days Club' - 5 straight days where we meet at a local park or housing project and pray and minister to area residents;

Vacation Bible School; and field trips/camping trips with city youth to our cabin up north, where they can study His word and praise His name outside of their normal environment.

Because of the rapid turnover in the area, 3,300 tracts were recently mailed out to homes in the area inviting them learn more about Jesus. Reverend Brown has also been led to increase the prayer ministry and has set up additional prayer cells."

If you are interested in learning more about Brown's Ministry or participate as a volunteer in one of our church's monthly visits, contact Paul Ingram at 734-502-3951.



FOR AND ABOUT MEMBERS



Seasoned Citizen Coffee

Everyone between the ages of 50 to 100 is invited to a special Coffee Planning Session tailored just for you! Please come to the Sarah room on Tuesday, June 23 at 10:00 AM for this informational meeting on building and strengthening our Seasoned Citizen Ministry. We have some ideas we hope you will be



excited about and we would like your input on what you would like see happen as well. Please call or see Pr. Dave or Karen in the church office with any questions. We hope to see you on the 23rd!

Free Outdoor Concert

The Canton Concert Band will perform on the church lawn on Wednesday, August 12 at 7 p.m. Bring a chair or a blanket and enjoy an evening of music and fellowship. Consider inviting a friend or neighbor to join you. There is no charge for this event but donations of nonperishable food items for the church food pantry would be appreciated.



June 7 New Member Class and Pot Luck Luncheon

Please welcome our spring new member class by attending the June 7, 11:00 AM worship service and the Potluck Luncheon being held in their honor immediately following the service in the Koinonia Room. **Current members should sign up to attend the potluck on the poster located on the Parish Life bulletin board. Please remember to tell us what dish you will bring to share with 12 other people. As the new members are the guests of honor, we depend on members to provide the potluck food.** For more information on the luncheon, please Contact Parish Life, Allen DeWall, (734)771-5554 or adewall@gmail.com

And thank you to our Connectors and our new members!

New Members

Mike & Emily Bambini and TBA
Jon & Amy Platz—Evan, Austin & Mason
Bob & Lynn Rivers
Brian & Anne Saintonge

Connectors

Todd & Debbie Laird
Ryan & Becky Anderson
Bob & Ruth Hoon
Keith & Jeana Penski

A Matter of the Heart



In a recent educational seminar hosted by our church, Ron Chewning from Stewardship Advisors shared the following regarding developing a better understanding of the topic of Stewardship.

The focus of stewardship is not "paying the bills." It is about a personal relationship with Jesus. The focus of Biblical stewardship is not on the congregation's needs but on the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

Stewardship is

- A joyful response of gratitude for God's goodness and grace in your life.
- Faith in action.
- A Thank You!
- A response to giftedness.
- What I do after I say, "I believe."
- The believer's response to the creating, redeeming and sanctifying love of God.

Yes, it is truly a matter of the heart!

In Jesus,
Pastor Tim

Helping Hands Needed For Worship In The Park

We all look forward to the Worship in the Park experience again this summer. We will be blessed with SEVEN Sunday worship opportunities in this beautiful setting, July 12 through August 23. To logistically make this all happen, we are in need of individuals who can help with the set-up and with the tear down at the park as well and/or with the loading and unloading of equipment and platforms before and after back at the church. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Pr. Tim at 734-459-3333 or email timewell@connectingwithGod.org or contact Shawn Jennings at shawnjennings@connectingwithGod.org. Sign-ups sheets will be available beginning in June. One does not have to commit to all seven Sundays. We are prayerfully seeking and needing help any of the Sundays and in whatever capacity you feel moved to volunteer for to help make this unique and special worship experience possible. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and many hands help to make the load lighter!



FROM YOUR EQUIPPING TEAM

5 Tips for Handling Tough Conversations

The unpleasant reality of church ministry is that sooner or later there will be conflict with a team or individual. People are messy and we often need to have tough conversations to coach and correct for better ministry outcomes. While it's tempting to just ignore these issues, they can cause huge problems down the road regardless of how big or small they might appear now.

So don't send an email or a text...schedule a time to meet and engage in a face-to-face conversation. Even if it may be difficult.

Here are five tips for handling tough conversations:

- 1. Speak the truth in love.** Ephesians 4:15 calls us to speak truth in loving ways. Now, this verse doesn't imply we can say mean things if we use a sweet tone of voice. Tough conversations happen best within the context of authentically loving relationships. So a question to ask is who is the best person to have this direct talk? Is your relationship with the person in question close enough and healthy enough for an exchange of difficult words? Do they trust and respect you? Or is someone else better suited to have this conversation? Your job is to ensure that truthful words are spoken in a loving environment, between two people who desire the best for everyone.
- 2. Know the goal going in.** Be clear on the purpose for the conversation. Is it to gather information? Do you wish to obtain a commitment for a change in behavior? Will the desired outcome be simply to share perspectives and positions on a difficult issue? Knowing the desired outcome will help you determine the direction to take.
- 3. Assume positive intentions.** Most people evaluate themselves based upon their own intentions. At the same time, we tend to evaluate others based upon their behaviors. As you prepare for a tough conversation, try to assume the other person has only positive intentions and that he or she is basically a good-willed person. This will radically alter your tone and approach to the meeting.
- 4. Allow for silence.** Most people are uncomfortable with silence. But like pauses in music, periods of silence in a conversation can prove to be as important as words spoken. Do not bulldoze through these moments, but let them linger naturally. Sometimes it is in these times that God is doing his best and most important work.
- 5. Do it now.** A measure of effective leadership is whether or not a leader is capable of making hard decisions and how long it takes to act. You probably already know what needs to be done. It will not resolve itself, and it will likely get worse if left alone. As Proverbs 15:23 reminds us: "Everyone enjoys a fitting reply; it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time!"

[from the book, [*Practical Stuff for Pastors: Managing People*](#), Group Publishing, Inc., 2015]

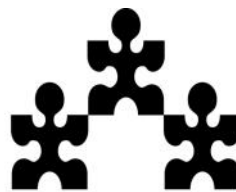
Thank You for Your Service!

On April 18, fifty-one teachers/spouses attended the Teacher Appreciation Dinner. While it was a wonderful dinner for those attending, we also wish to lift up the other 112 teachers/spouses who chose not to attend. These huge groups of volunteer teachers are responsible for teaching everything from nursery toddlers to Sunday School, Children's Church, Kids Kingdom, VBS, Confirmation, Youth, Small Group and adult classes.

The Equipping Team (ET) wishes to lift up of **Doug Read**, who just completed many years of leading our Church Council. We also lift up our own ET member, **Suzi Deal**, who was a charter member of the ET and is also retiring from the Church Council. Suzi was the leader and brains behind the April 2013 Ministry Fair and the February 2015 Gifts Fair.

Your Equipping Team

Lois Beerbaum
 Jim and Roxanne Davis
 Suzi Deal
 Pastor Tim Ewell
 Markita Gottschalk
 John and Lynn Seidelman
 Doug Tomayko
 Barbara Weide
 Sharon Waterbury



Equipping Ministry

FOR AND ABOUT KIDS AND FAMILIES!!!



YOUTH Ministry NEWS

Family FUN in JUNE – Coming

Soon – Howell Nature Center
trip to ZIPLINE – June 20th or 27th.

Watch for further information!



Cedar Point

June 16th

Families and teens invited to join us for a SUPER FUN day on rides, shows, food. All inclusive trip EASY for PARENTS – for one price you will get lunch and dinner and a comfy bus ride in a motor coach. We go on a weekday to avoid the lines! And it works! It's worth it to take a day off work and make some memories with your kids and church friends! Non-St. Michael members are invited too. This is a fantastic deal every year. You can't beat it. So if you wanted to hit the "Point" this summer anyway, this trip will save you money and make it easy for you! (Regular ticket would cost you \$45 per person. St. Michael Group Rate will be only \$37 per person) Then we will split the cost of the Motor Coach between all that attend. We bring our own delicious food and eat picnic style instead of buying the high priced food in the park. Don't miss this exciting day with us! Any questions contact Brenda Stilley brendastilley@connectingwithGod.org or call the church to reach her any weekday. *Please contact Brenda to see if there are any spaces left!!!*

The nursery theme for June is "God Cares for Me". Anyone interested in helping in the nursery, please contact Markita Gottschalk at 734-744-5016.

VBS Marketplace 2015

Vacation Bible School: MARKETPLACE 2015 ~ August 3rd - 7th.



We will need a large amount of volunteers for this EVENT! LIST OF POSITIONS available are as follows...Shopkeepers, Assistant Shopkeepers, Tribe Leaders, Assist. Tribe Leaders, Game Leaders, Kitchen Crew, Drama Team, Marketplace Characters, Story Teller, Floater, PRE-K Team, Photographers, Set up/clean up team, Registration Team, Sound People. To Volunteer either sign up on the bulletin board or email Brenda at Brendastilley@connectingwithgod.org.

Outdoor movie on August 1st to kick it all off!!!

Last Day of School Party!!!

Be HERE Thursday, June 11 right after school ends to celebrate the LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!!! Bring your friends! There will be food and lawn games. Post-Party High School movie at 2:00 PM.



Rummage Sale

You can start bringing in donations for the rummage sale on June 17-20 which will raise money for youth programs. Please no old television sets or dirty and/or broken items! Thank you for your donations! Contact



St. Michael Lutheran Church

"Connecting People to the Living God"

7000 N. Sheldon Rd.

Canton, MI 48187

(734) 459-3333

www.connectingwithGod.org

Rev. Dr. Dave Denzer, Lead Pastor

Rev. Tim Ewell, Associate Pastor

Pr. Joe Bonno, Visitation Pastor

NON-PROFIT ORG.

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Plymouth, MI 48170



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship in the Park—11:00 AM worship service
on the old school grounds of Cherry Hill School
across from the Cherry Hill Theater.

July 12, 19, 26 and August 2, 9, 16, and 23

5:30 PM Saturday and 9:00 AM

Sunday worship services will
continue to be held at

St. Michael Lutheran Church.

*Summer
Worship
Schedule*





June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00 Alanon 5:30 Monday Evening Prayer 7:30 Boy Scouts	2 6:00 Boys' Basketball 6:00 Elders 7:00 AA 7:00 Executive Committee 7:00 Property	3 6:30 Men's Brkfst/Bible Study 9:00 Open Door Food Ministry 5:15 Youth Committee Meeting 6:00 Church Council Workshop 7:00 Summer Bible Study	4 11:00 Seas Citizen Bible Study 6:00 Church Council Workshop 7:00 The Forum 7:30 Adult Choir	5 6:30 Men's Bkfst/Bible Study 12:00 Alanon	6 9:00 St. Michael Losers 5:30 Worship
7 New Member Sunday 9:00 Worship 11:00 Worship/Communion 12:00 Baptism 12:15 New Member Luncheon	8 10:00 Alanon 5:30 Monday Evening Prayer 7:30 Boy Scouts	9 11:00 Plymouth Ct 6:00 Boys' Basketball 6:30 Plymouth Landing Board Mtg 7:00 AA 7:00 Mission & Outreach	10 6:30 Men's Brkfst/Bible Study 10:00 Medilodge 7:00 Summer Bible Study	11 11:00 Seas Citizen Bible Study 7:00 The Forum 7:30 Adult Choir	12 6:30 Men's Bkfst/Bible Study 12:00 Alanon 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal 7:00 Unstoppable	13 8:00 Brown Ministry 9:00 St. Michael Losers 10:00 Deborah Circle 3:00 Wedding 5:30 Worship/Communion
14 FLAG DAY 9:00 Worship/Communion 11:00 Worship 12:15 Parish Life	15 10:00 Alanon 5:30 Monday Evening Prayer 7:30 Boy Scouts 	16 CEDAR POINT TRIP 7:00 SSC 6:00 Boys' Basketball 7:00 AA	17 RUMMAGE SALE 6:30 Men's Brkfst/Bible Study 7:00 Summer Bible Study 8:00 Church Council	18 RUMMAGE SALE 11:00 Seas Citizen Bible Study	19 RUMMAGE SALE 6:30 Men's Bkfst/Bible Study 12:00 Alanon	20 RUMMAGE SALE 9:00 St. Michael Losers 5:30 Worship
21 FATHER'S DAY 9:00 Worship 11:00 Worship/Communion 	22 10:00 Alanon 5:30 Monday Evening Prayer	23 9:00 Newsletter Staff 10:00 Seasoned Citizen Coffee 11:00 Plymouth Ct 6:00 Boys' Basketball 7:00 AA	24 6:30 Men's Brkfst/Bible Study 10:00 Medilodge 1:00 Waltonwoods 7:00 Summer Bible Study	25 11:00 Seas Citizen Bible Study	26 6:30 Men's Bkfst/Bible Study 12:00 Alanon 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal	27 9:00 St. Michael Losers 3:00 Wedding 5:30 Worship/Communion
28 9:00 Worship/Communion 11:00 Worship 12:15 Nursery Training	29 10:00 Alanon 5:30 Monday Evening Prayer	30 6:00 Boys' Basketball 7:00 AA				