

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

(see calendar for complete list)

January 13, 10:15am  
Discovering St. Michael

January 14  
Newsletter Deadline

January 15, 7pm  
Church Board Meeting

January 18, 7pm  
Family Movie Night

January 25-27  
High School Spring Hill Trip

January 27, 12pm  
Annual Congregational Meeting

January 31, 6:30pm  
Bridge Retreat

## 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](http://smlucanton.org/happenings)

## WHICH WAY?

The hustle and the bustle is over. Santa has come down chimney, presents have been opened, families have been visited, and baby Jesus is in the manger. Now what? With the new year, inevitably comes goal-setting and resolution-making. I've never really been one to make "New Year Resolutions". Maybe I've always just tried to get ahead of the curve knowing that by February, statistically speaking, most of our resolutions are abandoned – why start one if I'm just going to give up on it anyway, right? (That was a joke...) All kidding aside, I've never really understood what was special about the "fresh start" of a new year.

The idea of "new year, new me" just doesn't compute for me. Because change doesn't happen over night, there's really not much special in a calendar change. Real change is something that takes intentionality. It takes work, time, and commitment. I really got thinking about this today, when in my devotional time I came across the verse in Luke 9:23 where Jesus says, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me."

God really convicted me with two phrases "give up your own way", and "take up your cross daily". I'm no stranger to this passage, as I'm sure many of you know it well too. But the beauty of scripture is that it is God's living, breathing Word. Each time we encounter it, the Word can inspire us in different ways. I got thinking of

New Year's resolutions or goals and "my own way". Though historically I've never really attempted to make any resolutions, I did this year find myself writing a "list of goals for 2019". As I was writing this list, Jesus' words from Luke kept creeping into my mind. As I reviewed the list, it hit me that there really nothing on there I had asked God about, it was all my own way – things I just wanted to do and expected God to bless. I scrapped this list and have since started a new one, this time prayerfully considering each item and asking God "is this worth my time?" "Is it worth *your* time, is this valuable to you?"

As followers of Christ we first must put His way before our own. This isn't always easy. Sometimes we can find ourselves in

the loop of just doing our own thing and asking God to bless it. But Jesus urges us to give that up. It's part of taking up our cross daily. When we begin living this way, we're not just changed, but we are transformed by His power. If you are looking for change, setting goals, or resolutions this season – start with putting Jesus first. Be prepared to say "no" to some old standbys, habits, thoughts, and practices as His way leads you. Be also prepared to say "yes" to new things as the Holy Spirit leads and guides you. Be blessed as you go each day, walking in His way.

In Christ,  
Shawn Jennings

*Introducing Cole Nathaniel Jennings,  
born Sunday, December 16, 2018.  
Congratulations to Shawn, Abbey, and Micah!*



**Sunday Schools  
Resume!**

All Sunday Schools—for adults and for children—resume on Sunday, January 6.

**Midweek Recharge**

Midweek Recharge returns on Wednesday, January 9 beginning with dinner at 5:30pm and all the usual activities—Bible study, confirmation, kids’ choirs, children’s program—immediately following.

**New Sermon Series:  
Revolution**

Jesus had a lot to say about the church. What if His church really lived into the things he said about us? What if we acted like salt? What if we had the effect of light? What would that even look like? Join us for our annual vision sermon series, every weekend, January 6- 20, to rediscover Jesus’ vision for our church.

**Cult and Cult  
Religions**

Join us for four sessions and learn what defines a cult and why the Mormon Church and Jehovah’s Witnesses are considered cults. Wednesdays during Recharge, in the Chapel at 6:30pm January 9, 16, 23, and 30.

Please sign up on the Pastor’s board so we have material for you. Led by Joan Geisler.

Contact Joan with questions: joanrgeisler@gmail.com

**STEWARDSHIP**

**A NEW START - 2019**



We are blessed to begin 2019 under the awesome grace, love and provision of our Lord. It is so exciting to look forward to what our Lord will do in our midst here in the coming twelve months of 2019. The mission and ministry potential is so limitless.

We were blessed with a tremendously strong response to our 2019 Stewardship Campaign “Living Generously” with the highest number of Faith Giving Cards dedicated at the altar in five years. Praise God! Remember to prayerfully reflect upon the commitment that you made between you and the Lord this past November. Our God wants us to live the generous, joyful life. Your tithes and offerings support the mission and ministry that we have together been called to be a part of for a time such as this.

A blessed New Year in the Lord!

**SEND**

**Thanks to the Medilodge helpers**

First of all, thanks to all St. Michael attendees who provided gifts. You put smiles on many faces and hearts. A special thank you to the behind-the-scenes individuals who make this ministry happen—Jean Aubuchon, Joanne Sisler, Tammy Chupa, Andrea Anderson and Karen Peoples. You are an outstanding team. Blessings to you all.

As a point of interest, St Michael has been helping Medilodge for 20 years and obviously has touched many lives. Thank you to all who have contributed.

**Inkster Fire Donations**

Thanks to everyone who donated the much-needed paper products and toiletries to help out the people who were affected by the devastating fire in Inkster. Many people were touched by your generosity.

**Brown’s Ministry**

The upcoming dates for Brown’s Ministry are February 9, March 9 and April 13. We leave at 8:15am in the church van to help out however we can at this ministry in downtown Detroit. Brown’s serves the community through donations of food, clothing, and other goods as well as other services. Please call Paul Ingram with questions at 734-502-3951.

The St. Michael **Annual Congregational Meeting** is Sunday, January 27 immediately following the 11am worship service. Please plan on attending this important and informative meeting. Lunch provided.

### Advent by Candlelight

A special thank you to the women’s ministry teams—the outgoing team AND the incoming team—for all their hard work in putting together another fabulous Advent by Candlelight. Thank you, too, to the hostesses who lovingly put together beautiful tables and the men who graciously served. A wonderful time was had by all. There was plenty of delicious food, and the special presentation by the Magic Carpet Theater Group was inspiring. What a blessing!



### Discovering St. Michael

Discovering St. Michael is a 45-minute informal session that provides details about our church, Christian community, and what we believe. It’s a great way to see if you want to explore membership. The next session is January 13 at 10:15am in the Dorcas room. Please contact the office if you have any questions 734-459-3333.

### Thank You From the Staff

To all who gave gifts, cards, and well wishes this Christmas season, we extend a warm thank you. To all who spoke a kind word, or an encouraging word, words of appreciation and love, we want you to know how much these are appreciated. If you thought of us and whispered a prayer, be assured these were heard and answered, and you helped strengthen the ministry at this time of year when demands and responsibilities are increased.

At this time of year when we count our blessings, we thank the Lord for you. God’s peace and blessings to our St. Michael family in the new year.

### Lobby Project Meetings

We hope you have been able to see the video and renderings of the proposed lobby renovation. The final follow-up meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 13 at noon in the Sanctuary to discuss the project and answer questions you may have about it. Please come and learn all you can about this important undertaking. We will be voting on this at the January 27 congregational meeting.



### Bridge Retreat

The Bridge Retreat is the heart of the new member process here at St. Michael and connects those people wishing to join our congregation to Jesus and to others in our church family. The next retreat, led by Pr. Dave, is Saturday, January 31 at 6:30pm in the Abraham room. Please call the church office if you would like to attend or if we can send an invitation to someone you think might like to attend.

### Small Groups

Were you able to sign up for a small group in December? There are several groups that still have openings. Please contact the church office for a list of days and locations. Start your year off right!



Happy New Year! As we worship God together, let us pray for a fruitful year of ministry to the glory of His name.

## GriefShare: Register Now!

Do you know someone who is grieving?

We will be offering a 13-week GriefShare support group experience beginning Thursday, January 10 from 6:30 to 8:15pm in the portable classroom. This session will run through May 3 (with several off weeks) and will be facilitated by Pastor Tim.

GriefShare is a Christ-centered, Biblically-based video and discussion support group that takes place in a confidential, safe, and nurturing environment. This experience is open to members and nonmembers. The cost is \$20 for materials, and help is available if cost is a

concern. GriefShare is ideal for anyone working through the grief process (loss of a child, spouse, parent, sibling, or friend) regardless of when the loss occurred.

This is the last chance to sign up on the Pastor's board. Contact Pr. Tim at [timewell@smlucanton.org](mailto:timewell@smlucanton.org) or the church office 734-459-3333 for more information.



## Book Club

Book club meetings are generally held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm in the Sarah room. New readers are always welcome even if you didn't quite finish the book. You don't have to be a member of St. Michael to join so feel free to bring a friend, neighbor, or family member. On January 21, we will discuss *Not a Sparrow Falls* by Linda Nichols. The selection for February 18 is *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the email list, contact Amy Bruhn at [amy.bruhn@gmail.com](mailto:amy.bruhn@gmail.com).



## Parish Life Needs You

If you are a person who enjoys planning events or would like to volunteer to help, you are a perfect fit for the Parish Life Committee! We need enthusiastic individuals who are willing to help plan events, such as the Harvest Party and the Hoedown. Meetings are usually the first Sunday of every month. The next meeting is January 6 at 12:30 in the Sarah room. Come check us out!

## Rally Day Church Picnic

This coming year will be my last year of coordinating the annual Rally Day Church Picnic. I would like to invite anyone who would like to take over this event to come along side of me for the 2019 year to see what is involved in planning the picnic. If you feel led to coordinate this event, please contact me: Dawn Kersten at 734-363-2003.

## Inclement Weather Policy

Winter is here and with it comes bad weather. In the event of bad or questionable weather, the decision to cancel church activities will be made by 1pm. Please check the Facebook page (St. Michael Lutheran Church of Canton), the St. Michael church website ([smlucanton.org](http://smlucanton.org)), or call the office at 734-459-3333.



## Eldersiversity Events

Eldersiversity presents Bingo on Thursday, January 17 at 12:30pm. Please bring a \$5 donation for lunch and a wrapped white elephant gift. Sign up and pay in the church office. Contact Linda Lynch, Phillis Carrithers, or Betty Roupas with any questions.

On Saturday, February 2 at 10am, we will host **Coffee with a Cop**. You and your Canton friends are invited to attend and have your questions answered about policing in Canton. If available, a detective from the Canton Police Department will talk about the efforts of that division. This will take place in the Abraham room and the cross hallway with private conversation areas, if needed, in the Library and Dorcas rooms. Refreshments provided. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, humanity in God, God in humanity, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look ... their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.

—Peter Chrysologus (5th century)

**Annual Mug-N-Muffin**

**January 19<sup>th</sup>**



**K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade**  
**females with their**  
**favorite adult females**  
**10:00am-12:00pm**

**3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade**  
**females with their**  
**favorite adult females**  
**1:00-2:30pm**

Moms and daughters! Grandmas and granddaughters! Aunts and nieces! Enjoy a special time of warm beverages, muffins and baked goods, laughs and bonding, girl games, and talking heart-to-heart with the females we love. Due to the increasing popularity of this event, and to accommodate the wide range of young ladies who attend, we have divided it up into 2 different programs, this year! We will have fun activities that are tailored by age group for the young ladies.

**Midweek Recharge**

**Starts Back Up on January 9<sup>th</sup>**



Join us at 5:30pm for a dinner prepared with love for your whole family followed by an adults' class, confirmation class, and classes for elementary-age. There are also the Leaping Lambs for youngsters who like dance and all the kids' choirs-Sonbeams, Kids Kingdom, and Teen. See you Wednesday with a friend!

**Family Movie Night**

**January 18<sup>th</sup>**



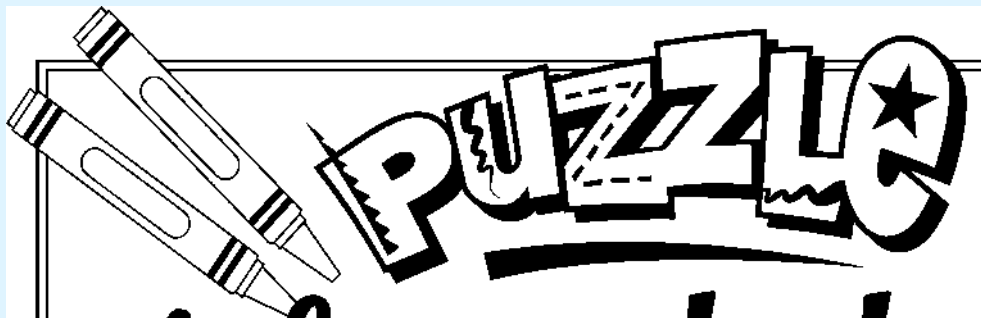
Grab your kids, some pillows and favorite blankets to sprawl out on the gym floor and enjoy a free movie. Family Movie Night includes pizza slices for \$1.00 and snacks for 25¢. Kids love this fun time and ALL ages are welcome. Starts at 7pm.

**Pre-Teen Spring Hill Retreat**

**January 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>**

Please pray for the middle school kids and their chaperones who are going to the Spring Hill Retreat January 25-27. May this be a time to strengthen their faith and their friendships!





# A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

*Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.*



We were therefore buried with him  
 through baptism into death in order that,  
 just as Christ was raised from the dead  
 through the glory of the Father,  
 we too may live a \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 6:4, NIV

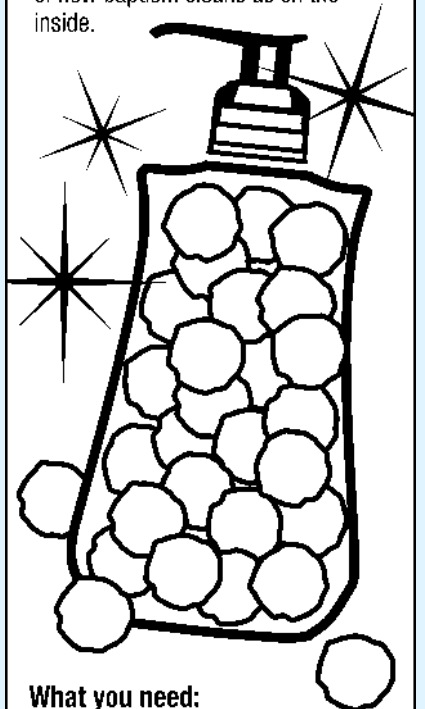
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Answer: f i e l e w n ; n e w l i f e

## Washed Clean

Decorate a soap bottle as a reminder of how baptism cleans us on the inside.



**What you need:**

- Bottle of clear liquid hand soap
- Small craft pompoms (different colors)
- Wooden skewer

**What you do:**

1. Remove the bottle label and unscrew the lid.
2. Using the skewer, push pompoms down into the soap one at a time.
3. Replace the lid and put the dispenser in a bathroom or kitchen.



# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>6</b> 9:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School - all ages 10:30 Adult Bible Study 11:00 Worship/Communion 11:30 Children's Church 12:30 Parish Life 5:00 DivorceCare	<b>7</b> 5:30 Evening Prayer 9:00 MOPS Steering	<b>8</b> 9:00 MOPS 9:30 LWR Quilters 11:00 Plymouth Ct 6:00 Property 7:00 Mission & Outreach	<b>9</b> 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St 9:00 Open Door Ministry 9:30 Crossways 5:30 Midweek Recharge 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Adult Bible Study See individual leaders for choirs and dance schedules	<b>10</b> 11:00 Senior Bible Study 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 HS Youth Group 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>11</b> 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St	<b>12</b> 8:00 Brown Ministry 5:30 Worship/Communion
<b>13</b> 9:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School - all ages 10:15 Discovering St. Michael 10:30 Adult Bible Study 11:00 Worship/Communion 11:30 Children's Church 12:00 Lobby Project Meeting 5:00 DivorceCare	<b>14</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 5:30 Evening Prayer	<b>15</b> 7:00 Church Board	<b>16</b> 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St 9:30 Crossways 5:30 Midweek Recharge 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Adult Bible Study See individual leaders for choirs and dance schedules	<b>17</b> 11:00 Senior Bible Study 12:30 Elders/Share 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 HS Youth Group 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>18</b> 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St 7:00 Family Movie Night	<b>19</b> 10:00 Mug-n-Muffin (K-2 grades) 1:00 Mug-n-Muffin (3-6 grades) 5:30 Worship
<b>20</b> 9:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School - all ages 10:30 Adult Bible Study 11:00 Worship/Communion 11:30 Children's Church 12:15 Pastoral Care Team 2:00 High School Knockerball 5:00 DivorceCare	<b>21</b> 5:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Book Club	<b>22</b> 9:00 MOPS 9:30 LWR Quilters 11:00 Plymouth Ct	<b>23</b> 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St 9:30 Crossways 5:30 Midweek Recharge 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Adult Bible Study See individual leaders for choirs and dance schedules	<b>24</b> 11:00 Senior Bible Study 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 HS Youth Group 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>25</b> 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St	<b>26</b> 5:30 Worship/Communion Middle School Spring Hill Retreat →
<b>27</b> 9:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School - all ages 10:30 Adult Bible Study 11:00 Worship/Communion 11:30 Children's Church 12:00 Congregational Meeting 5:00 DivorceCare	<b>28</b> 5:30 Evening Prayer	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30 Mens Bkfst/Bible St 9:30 Crossways 5:30 Midweek Recharge 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Adult Bible Study See individual leaders for choirs and dance schedules	<b>31</b> 11:00 Senior Bible Study 6:30 Bridge Retreat 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 HS Youth Group 7:00 Adult Choir		



**st. michael**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CANTON  
Welcome to the Spirited Life

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
Permit No. 113  
Plymouth, MI 48170

**7000 N. Sheldon Rd.**  
**Canton, MI 48187**  
**734-459-3333**  
**[www.smlucanton.org](http://www.smlucanton.org)**

Rev. Dr. Dave Denzer, Lead Pastor  
Rev. Tim Ewell, Associate Pastor  
Shawn Jennings, Youth Director  
Brenda Stilley, Children & Family Ministries  
Sue Lukasik, Director of Music

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

