

Ms. Sapna Sagar Michael
Ascension, Jackson, MS

Tell us a little about yourself and your ministry

Sapna Sagar Michael attends Ascension Lutheran Church in Jackson, Mississippi with her extended family. Sapna has a heart for the children and youth at Ascension and always tries to create a community where there is love and nurture. She loves being able to remind the youth, even when they are down, just where they came from and who loves them. When she works with them, she says it is not always clear who is blessing who.

What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

Matthew 13:3-4: *A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up...* For Sapna, whenever a seed is dropped, no matter how small, there is the potential for hope and abundant life. She also has experienced that the tiniest of connections and circumstances can change the trajectory of our lives.

When/how have you been blessed by God's abundance? Sapna can't help but tell the story of her then 18-year-old great grandmother in India, widowed and outcast, who was found by a Lutheran medical missionary – a woman doctor – and nursed back to health. Ultimately Sapna's grandmother married a Lutheran pastor, adopted a daughter, made her way to the United States, and modeled for the next generations how to love and serve Christ. Sapna's family established a 100 bed Christian Cancer center in Kakinada, India and supported it for thirty years. They modeled God's abundance and taught her that there is always enough to give.

Where have you seen God recently? She sees God especially in the way that women serve, as council persons, teachers, leaders, pastors. Women have a way of holding each other's hands and helping each other through - women supporting women.