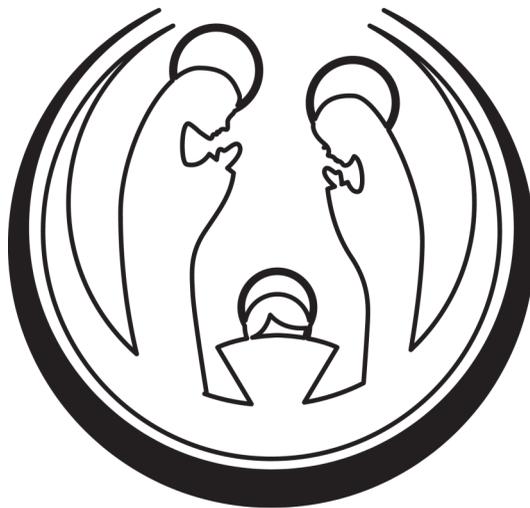


St. Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ



Christmas Eve 2021
4:30 PM
Carol Singing & Candle Lighting

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL'S!

If you are visiting with us for the first time, please share in all that is ours in Christ! We invite you to consider making St. Michael's your church home. Please ask us about our participation in God's mission in the world. By God's grace we celebrate and share Christ. .

Our worship service is streamed live to St. Michael's Facebook and YouTube pages. Please keep conversation to a minimum in the sanctuary, you may be picked up by our sound system. If you prefer not to be seen on camera please speak to an usher and they will seat you outside of the video frame. Thank you for your understanding.

IMPORTANT LITURGY NOTES:

*Our liturgy includes Holy Communion. **Communion will be distributed continuously, in household groups, under the direction of the usher.** Take an empty cup to receive from a pouring chalice Please assist our younger communicants. Children and Adults who do not yet receive the Holy Communion are welcome to receive a blessing. Please let the Pastor know if you require a gluten free host.*

Candle Lighting is a tradition on Christmas Eve at St. Michael's. LED Candles are available for our younger children and those with unsteady hands. Remember not to tilt lighted candles. Also, please do not handle the pew torches. They contain hot liquid.

A WORD OF THANKS

Many have given of their time and talent to make this sacred celebration of our Savior's birth special. Our appreciation goes out to those who coordinated and assisted in decorating the sanctuary and narthex. Thanks to all who shared in the many tasks involved in getting ready and to those who shared their gifts in worship leadership and music.

*Ministers: The People of St. Michael's
The Reverend Christopher Bruesehoff, Pastor (pastor@stmlutheran.org)
Mark P. Dishong, Director of Music (markdishong@gmail.com)
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INTRODUCTION

This celebratory worship is particularly designed to share the Christmas message with our families with children. The proclamation tonight will be focused on Luke's Christmas Gospel. Families with younger children are encouraged to use tonight's proclamation as a resource for further conversation about the meaning of Christmas when at home. Everyone is invited to find opportunities to proclaim Jesus and to respond to God's love for us through service, fellowship, worship and learning. Remember the season of Christmas begins on December 25 and is twelve days long (ending on January 5). Use this time to celebrate together as much as possible.

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*
Allen Carr, alto saxophone

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The assembly is invited to stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Holy God,

ALL: we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you.



Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

Pastor: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. † In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

ALL: Amen.

Carol: “O, Come, All Ye Faithful” - ADESTE FIDELES (ELW #283)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels: | 2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! <i>Refrain</i> |
| REFRAIN:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord! | 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: <i>Refrain</i> |

GREETING

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is born!

ALL: Alleluia! Christ is born!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

Carol: “Angels We Have Heard on High” - GLORIA (ELW #289)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains. | 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
<i>Refrain</i> |
|---|---|

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **ALL: Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

The assembly is seated.

READING 1: Isaiah 9:2–7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

Reader: A reading from Isaiah.

- ²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.
- ³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is invited to stand.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1–20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

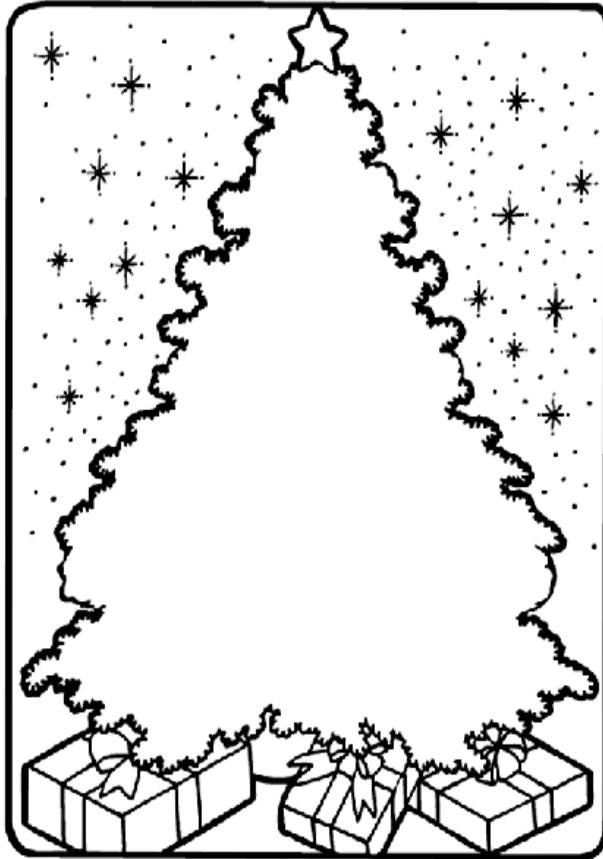
¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one

another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **ALL: Praise to you, O Christ**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Decorate your Christmas Tree!

The assembly is invited to stand.

Carol: “*Joy to the World*” - ANTIOCH (ELW #267)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature
sing. | 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found. |
| 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy. | 4 He rules the world with truth and
grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love. |

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

THE PRAYERS

Assisting Minister: Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. Responding to each petition with the words “Receive our prayer”.

Silence for reflection.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus’ birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,

ALL: Receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,

ALL: Receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they

nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,

ALL: Receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night especially those we name aloud now... and those we hold in our hearts. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,

ALL: Receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,

ALL: Receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God,

ALL: Receive our prayer.

Pastor: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **ALL: Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Christ be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The First Noel"

Allen Carr, alto saxophone

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Offering is still being gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of

those in need. You are invited to place your offering in one of the offering plates located in the rear of the Sanctuary or send your offering to the church office through the mail or by having your bank mail a check directly. You can also contribute using any of the electronic giving options found on our church website.

The assembly is invited to stand.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Carol: “*What Child Is This*” - GREENSLEEVES (ELW #296)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems
sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels
sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary! | 2 So bring him incense, gold, and
myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary! |
|--|---|

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

DIALOGUE

Pastor: Shepherds quaked and angels sang when love came down.

ALL: O come, let us adore him.

Pastor: His mother opened her heart to the glories revealed.

ALL: O come, let us adore him.

Pastor: God's gift to us is revealed in bread broken and wine poured.

ALL: O come, let us adore him.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my

body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you

ALL: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All who are guided by faith to receive the Lord's Supper are welcome at Christ's table. We give thanks as we receive the real presence of our resurrected Lord in, with, and under the bread and the wine. **Communion will be distributed continuously, in household groups, under the direction of the usher.** Take an empty cup to receive from a pouring chalice. Please let the pastor know if you require a gluten free host. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you." and each person may respond, "Amen". Worshippers who are not yet communing are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

The assembly is invited to stand.

TABLE BLESSING

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in Christ's Grace. **ALL: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **ALL: Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Pastor will give light from his candle to the ushers. They will give light to worshipers nearest the aisle, who will pass it on to the others in that pew. Tilt unlit candles to lit candles. Please keep lighted candles upright.

Carol: “*Silent Night, Holy Night*” - SILENT NIGHT (ELW #281)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace. | 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born! |
| 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth. | |

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

BLESSING

Pastor: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through † Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Carol: “*Go Tell It on the Mountain*” - GO TELL IT (ELW #290)

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

- 3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.
Refrain

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “*Angels from the Realms of Glory*” - arr. Robert W. Thygerson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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POINSETTIAS

Our Sanctuary is adorned with forty Poinsettia plants to help us celebrate the birth of Christ. It has been a long standing tradition at St. Michael's that our poinsettia plants are sponsored by donors in honor or memory of loved ones and friends. We give thanks for the generosity shown to help make our worship space festive and beautiful. After the 10:00 PM worship service, Christmas Eve we welcome you to pick up your poinsettia. Remaining plants may be adopted.

- ◆ Kathleen Abrams in memory of loved ones; and in honor of her grandchildren Ben, Jordyn, Tim and Jessica
- ◆ The Bruesehoff family in honor of the St. Michael's Lutheran Church community
- ◆ Allen & Trudy Carr in honor of loved ones
- ◆ Vicki & Jim Clemson in honor of loved ones
- ◆ Kelly Daly & Ray Kratz in memory of Bill & Dorothy Daly, Mary Ann & Allyn Burgstahler, and Florence & John Kratz, and in honor of their grandchildren Nate, Madelynn, Bodie and Isla and military men & women

- ◆ Leon & Linda David in memory of loved ones and in honor of their Grandchildren
- ◆ The DeBacker family in memory of Charlotte Lodise
- ◆ Larry & Marie Ferguson in honor of their Grandchildren Parker and CJ
- ◆ Wayne, Lisa & Abby Gess in memory of Donald & Winnie Gess; & Victoria Hoagland
- ◆ Ed & Carol Jensen in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Kay, Wayne & Jimmy McConnell in memory of Margaret & Bill McConnell, Helen & Stanley Steigerwalt, Nancy Ryan, James Williams & all loved ones
- ◆ Kasie Brooks, Megan Ryan, Kyle Ryan & Keven Ryan in memory of Nancy Ryan & Helen & Stanley Steigerwalt
- ◆ Ruth Morgenroth in memory of Carl and Stella Sundstrom
- ◆ Mary Beth Neilson in memory of Joan Neilson and dearly missed loved ones and in honor of Anna Charlotte, Howard & Alexandria Elizabeth Dobbs
- ◆ Carolyn Peterson in honor of her six sisters whose love and support got her through this very difficult year
- ◆ Janet Thompson in memory of Gregory Thompson
- ◆ Chas VanHorn & family in memory of Cathy VanHorn
- ◆ Denise Wallace in memory of Audrey Wager & Patricia Scipione
- ◆ Elizabeth Winkelman in memory of Christmases past
- ◆ John Winkelman in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Jill Zak in honor of John, Julia & Jackie



DIGITAL SIGN IN

To help keep each other safe, you are welcome to sign in with our new digital sign in. Please use the QR Code that can be found here in the bulletin or on the tables in the Narthex. You are also welcome to still sign in on the hard copy on the table in the Narthex.



*A Blessed and
Merry Christmas to all our
St. Michael's family and friends!*

1st Sunday after Christmas
December 26, 2021
Lessons, Carols & Communion
10:00 AM
One Service
There will be no SCS/Adult Forum

