

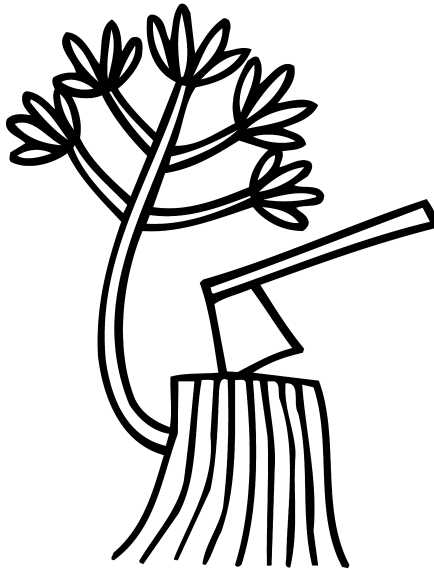
# ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

---

*Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ*

---

*In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem, and Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee the wrath to come?"*



*Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children of Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 4, 2022**  
**at 8:15 AM & 11:00 AM**  
*ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten*

## **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 services this morning are 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.*

## **DIGITAL SIGN IN**

You are welcome to sign in with our 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.



## **WORSHIP SEATING ARRANGEMENTS**

We are asking that folks try not to sit directly behind each other during worship and instead sit in-between the groups in the pew directly in front of you. Think about it like taking a class picture back in school, when you had to stand in the 'window' between the two people in front of you.

Ministers: The People of St. Michael's  
The Reverend Christopher Bruesehoff, Pastor ([pastor@stmlutheran.org](mailto:pastor@stmlutheran.org))  
Mark P. Dishong, Director of Music ([markdishong@gmail.com](mailto:markdishong@gmail.com))  
601 Kings Highway N., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034  
856-667-0973, Fax: 856-755-1247  
[office@stmlutheran.org](mailto:office@stmlutheran.org) [www.stmichaelslutheranchurch.org](http://www.stmichaelslutheranchurch.org)

## *ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

*From SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*

*Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24280*

*and streamed by permission under OneLicense.net #A-711336.*

*New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.*

*Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

## INTRODUCTION

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the seasons change, we turn toward the approaching Christ child. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

8:15 AM: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

11:00 AM: "On This Day Earth Shall Ring"-Handbell Choir

### GATHERING

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

*The assembly is invited to stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**ALL: Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**ALL: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

**We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.**

**Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,**

**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,**

**and welcome your coming among us.**

**Amen.**

Pastor: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on † Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**ALL: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**      “*On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry*”      ELW 249

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry<br>announces that the Lord is nigh;<br>awake and hearken, for he brings<br>glad tidings of the King of kings!           | 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health<br>restore,<br>and make us rise to fall no more;<br>oh, let your face upon us shine<br>and fill the world with love divine. |
| 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;<br>make straight the way for God within,<br>and let us all our hearts prepare<br>for Christ to come and enter there. | 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,<br>whose advent has our freedom won,<br>whom with the Father we adore,<br>and Holy Spirit, evermore.                            |
| 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,<br>our refuge and our great reward;<br>without your grace we waste away<br>like flow'rs that wither and decay.            |   |

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Composite . Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

**GREETING**

Pastor: 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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

ELW 253



- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 He came down that we may have love;  | he came down that we may have love;  |
| 2 He came down that we may have light; | he came down that we may have light; |
| 3 He came down that we may have peace; | he came down that we may have peace; |
| 4 He came down that we may have joy;   | he came down that we may have joy;   |



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light;      hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional; Music HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional, Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen**

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

*One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. In the northern hemisphere the wreath and winter candle-lighting strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath. Our litany this year was provided by Lutheran World Relief.*

Pastor: God of Hope, John the Baptist reminds us that choosing your way sometimes leads us into the wilderness. When we cry out for your divine comfort, teach us also to speak tenderly to our neighbors near and far, proclaiming your love to all. God of the wilderness:

**ALL: Embolden us to shine your hope into all the world.**

Pastor: God of Hope, as we light this second candle, we remember that you call us to courage. When we meet injustice, may we hold firm. When it feels easier to turn away, strengthen us to see you in the face of our neighbor, especially those we may not understand. God of the wilderness:

**ALL: Embolden us to shine your hope into all the world.**

Pastor: God of Hope, today we remember our siblings in Peru who live their lives in a real, physical wilderness. Give Deysi and her family continued courage in their journey. May we learn from our neighbors how to see beauty and life in our own wild places. God of the wilderness:

**ALL: Embolden us to shine your hope into all the world.**

Pastor: God of Hope, as John challenged his followers to open their eyes and hearts to different priorities, grant us the courage to open our own. Help us speak your love into the lives of our neighbors with boldness and compassion. God of the wilderness:

**ALL: Embolden us to shine your hope into all the world.**

Pastor: God of Hope, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your

mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth

**ALL: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated*

## **WORD**

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

### **FIRST READING**

Isaiah 11:1-10

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,

and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy

on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

Lector: A reading from Romans.

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; <sup>10</sup>and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; <sup>11</sup>and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Sung twice*

Musical score for Gospel Acclamation, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Build up, pre - pare the way. Re - move the ob - struc - tions from my peo - ple's way. Build up, pre - pare the way. God is near, God is here to - day." The chords are: F(D), Bb(G), C(A), F(D), Bb(G), C(A), F(D), Bb(G), C(A), F(D), C(A), F(D), Bb(G), C(A).

© 1996 Dakota Road Music. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336.

## GOSPEL:

Matthew 3:1-12

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees



coming for baptism, he said to them,  
“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit  
worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our  
ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to  
Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that  
does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water  
for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy  
to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing  
fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the  
granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated*

## **SERMON**

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all  
that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the  
Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten,  
not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the  
Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was  
crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third  
day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to  
judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is  
worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in  
one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the  
world to come. Amen.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Assisting Minister: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a  
world that yearns for new hope, responding with “hear our prayer”.

*A brief silence.*

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers, and theologians, especially John of Damascus, whom we commemorate today. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,  
**ALL: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,  
**ALL: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves God, in your mercy,  
**ALL: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,  
**ALL: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones, especially those we name aloud now...and those we hold in our hearts. God, in your mercy,  
**ALL: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence God, in your mercy,  
**ALL: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.  
**ALL: Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**ALL: And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

### MUSICAL OFFERING

8:15: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

11:00: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Handbell Choir

*Offering is 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.*

## OFFERTORY



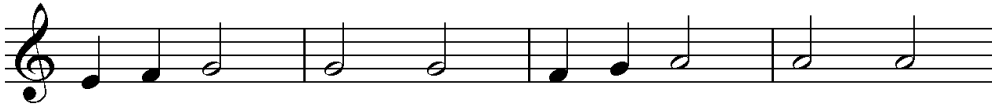
Pre - pare the high-way all who hear  
Pre pare the ta - ble for this time,



for the King of kings is near. Let the lev - el road ap - pear to  
bless the bread, \_ bless the wine. Sweet - est fel - low - ship div - ine is



greet the King of glo - ry fore - told in an - cient sto - ry.  
what we are par - tak - ing \_ as the bread we're break - ing



Let Ho - sa - nas ring to our Lord and King.  
 All our gifts we bring to our Lord and King.



For he will God's word ful-fill and give life ev - er - last - ing  
 For he will God's word ful-fill and give life ev - er - last - ing

Text: Laura Dishong; Tune: PERSONENT HODIE

## OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

**ALL: Amen**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

### PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san-na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for your faith in Mary's openness. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pastor: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**ALL: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen**

### 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: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

### LAMB OF GOD



1. O Lamb of God, you\_\_ bear the sin of  
2. O Lamb of God, you\_\_ bear the sin of  
3. O Lamb of God, you\_\_ bear the sin of



all the world a - way; you\_\_  
all the world a - way; you\_\_  
all the world a - way; e -



suf - fered death our lives to save; have  
 set us free from guilt and grave; have  
 -ter - nal peace with God you made; give



mer - cy now, we pray.  
 mer - cy now, we pray.  
 us your peace we pray.

*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 (let the communion assistant know if you prefer grape juice). 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.*

*After all have communed 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.

### SONG AFTER COMMUNION



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Assisting Minister: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**ALL: Amen.**

## **SENDING**

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

## **BLESSING**

Pastor: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✚ bless you now and forever.

**ALL: Amen**



**SENDING HYMN**

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

ELW 250

- 1 Blessed be the God of Israel  
who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us:  
a Branch from David’s tree.  
So have the prophets long declared  
that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies  
and all who wish us harm.
- 2 With promised mercy will God still  
the covenant recall,  
the oath once sworn to Abraham,  
from foes to save us all;  
that we might worship without fear  
and offer lives of praise,  
in holiness and righteousness  
to serve God all our days.
- 3 My child, as prophet of the Lord  
you will prepare the way,  
to tell God’s people they are saved  
from sin’s eternal sway.  
Then shall God’s mercy from on high  
shine forth and never cease  
to drive away the gloom of death  
and lead us into peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

**DISMISSAL**

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Christ is near.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

The *Altar Flowers* are given by Denise Wallace in memory of our parents Martin W. Wallace, Martha Rose Wallace, and George Joseph Griggs, Sr. .

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749  
Sunday, December 4, 2022**

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, *The Fount of Wisdom*, remained influential for centuries.

**Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342  
Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

**Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397  
Wednesday, December 7, 2022**

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**  
**Sunday, December 11th, 12:30PM**

Let's celebrate the season with a Christmas Lunch! Join us in the social hall for a hot catered meal, sides, salad and beverages. The cost is \$15 for Adults and \$5 for children. We invite the congregation to bring their favorite Christmas cookies to share for dessert. There will be caroling, games and fun for all (including a children's craft table). *This fellowship event is open to everyone!*

Sign up in the narthex or use the Sign-Up Genius link: <https://bit.ly/3UoxNSZ>

Pay by Cash or Check (payable to SMLC, with "Parish Fellowship" in memo). Payments can be given to any member of Parish Fellowship.  
(Vicki Clemson, Linda David, Vivian Gano, Lisa Gess, June Greiser, Karen Roorda, Becky Sahlman, and Holly Zahradnick)

***Last Day to sign-up is TODAY, Sunday, December 4th 2022.***

**MIDWEEK HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER FOR ADVENT**

Advent is a busy time of year for so many of us – as individuals and as families. While so much of our society is gearing up for Christmas we are also trying to prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Our Midweek Holden Evening Prayer Service can help provide an opportunity for that preparation. For those attending in person worship begins at 7:30pm on Wednesdays from November 30 to December 21. It will also be live streamed on Facebook and YouTube. Let us prepare the way of the Lord together!

**POINSETTIA FLOWERS**

Order forms to sponsor poinsettias at the altar Christmas Eve are in the Narthex and Constant Contact. The price is \$10/plant. Please have your sponsor forms in no later than **Sunday, December 18** with your dedication. Please print all of your information on the form. Thank you.

### **UN-TRIM-A-TREE**

Our Un-Trim-A-Tree program will assist families in Lutheran Social Ministries homes in North Camden. Each tag on the tree has a name, age, and gift idea for that child. Please choose a tag from the tree, sign your name and phone number to the matching number on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Gifts should be returned UNWRAPPED , with the accompanying tag. It is suggested that the gift be valued at around \$25.

All gifts are due back by **Sunday, December 11**. Thank You for your generosity!

### **DECORATING ST. MICHAELS**

On Sunday, December 18, we will be decorating St. Michaels for Christmas beginning at 12:00 Noon. Come and be part of the Christmas preparations!

### **CHRISTMAS YOUTH GROUP EVENT**

Our next Youth Group event will be **Saturday, December 17 from 2:00PM-4:00PM**. All youth in 6th-12th grade are invited to participate in an afternoon of activities. There will be a Nerf battle, graham cracker constructions and festive games for all.

Please sign-up using the SignUp Genius link: <http://bit.ly/3UmHiSA>

Questions? Contact Elizabeth at [stmichaelslutheran.youthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelslutheran.youthgroup@gmail.com)

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Confirmation class meets on an irregular schedule. The class schedule for the next few weeks is as follows:

- Sunday, December 4 at 6pm
- Sunday, December 11 at 6pm
- Sunday, December 18 at 6pm

If you have any questions about confirmation or are interested in being a presenter for this years program please contact Pastor Chris.

## GIVING ENVELOPE NUMBER CHANGES

NEW envelope numbers are being generated for 2023! The envelope number currently assigned to you will most likely be changing in the upcoming year. Due to a limited inventory of envelopes for 2023, anyone donating through VANCO will not be receiving envelopes. If you donate through VANCO, and still want envelopes, please notify Tom Gano at [t.gano@yerizon.net](mailto:t.gano@yerizon.net) by **December 11**. We will be creating new envelope numbers at that time. ***New envelopes will be available by Sunday, December 18.***

## NEW OPPORTUNITY: JOSEPH'S HOUSE DINNER CASSEROLES

St. Michael's is continuing our ministry in supporting the work of Joseph's House in Camden as they feed the homeless. Starting on **January 8, 2023**, we will be adding Dinner Casseroles to our monthly rotation . This will be in addition to breakfast casseroles. Bring your casserole on the **2nd Sunday of the month, before or after worship services.**

To sign-up, please use the SignUp Genius link: <https://bit.ly/3i8CBxW>

See the poster in the Narthex for more details and to pick up your casserole trays.

## FLOWER CHART

**The Flower Chart for 2023** has now been posted on our bulletin board in the narthex. Consider enriching our Sunday worship celebrations by sponsoring the chancel flowers. Such gifts are dedicated to the glory of God and may be offered in remembrance, thanksgiving or celebration. The price to dedicate flowers is \$40. This is the cost paid to the florist. You may indicate your dedication on the chart (please print your information clearly) or submit it to the church office at 857-667-0973 or [office@stmlutheran.org](mailto:office@stmlutheran.org). **Please have dedications into the office 2 weeks prior to your dedication.** Payment is appreciated at least one month in advance of the date of sponsorship.

If you dedicated 2022 flowers and have not yet made payment, please do so before the end of the year. Thank you for your generous participation!

## **CHOIR REHEARSALS**

St. Michael's Adult Choir will rehearse after the 11:00 liturgy at 12:00p.m. The Adult Choir will sing an anthem on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the 11:00 AM liturgy October through May.

The Hand Bell Choir rings several times a year and rehearse Thursdays at 7:30 PM.

New members are welcome. Those interested in joining may contact Director of Music, Mark Dishong for more information

## **BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study is taking a break until January 11 when we will reconvene to discuss Rob Bell's book "Love Wins". If you would like a copy of the book please let Pastor Chris know ahead of time.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR**

October 31, 2022 YTD

Regular General Fund Income = \$243,193  
As Needed 3rd Quarter Memorial Fund Transfer\* = \$25,950  
Total General Fund Income = \$269,143  
Budgeted General Fund Income = \$265,519  
Actual income was \$3,624 more than budgeted.

*\*The Memorial Fund Transfer was approved during the Annual Meeting, if needed, to meet the Budgeted Income. Given market performance this year, it is our hope that Regular General Fund Income will be sufficient to not require an additional transfer at the end of the year.*

Actual General Fund Expenses = \$280,233  
Budgeted General Fund Expenses = \$291,172  
Actual Expenses were \$10,939 less than budgeted.

# PARISH CALENDAR

## **Sunday, December 4**

8:15 AM Worship In-Person  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Worship In-Person/Online  
12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 PM NA Meeting  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class

## **Monday, December 5**

7:00 PM Book Club

## **Tuesday, December 6**

12:00 PM NA Meeting  
7:00 PM Executive Meeting  
7:30 PM Communication Meeting

## **Wednesday, December 7**

7:00 AM Prayer Service  
9:30 AM Weight Watchers Meeting  
7:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer

## **Thursday, December 8**

12:00PM NA Meeting  
7:30 PM Handbell Choir

## **Friday, December 9**

12:00 PM NA Meeting

## **Saturday, December 10**

8:00 AM Weight Watchers Meeting

## **Sunday, December 11**

8:15 AM Worship In-Person  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Worship In-Person/Online  
12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal  
12:30 PM Christmas Lunch  
5:00 PM Confirmation Class  
6:00 PM NA Meeting  
7:00 PM Compassionate Friends Candle Service



# **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.