

# St. Michael's

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Luke 3:1-4



Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'” Luke 3:4-6

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**December 5, 2021**  
**at 10:00 AM**

## 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 11:00am 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.*

### Land Acknowledgement

*"The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenne-Lenape, called "Lenapehoking." The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Renape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware. We acknowledge the Lenne-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, "as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine." shared by The Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape Tribal Nation (<https://nlltribe.com/land-acknowledgement/>)*

*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

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## INTRODUCTION

*Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**                    "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

## 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 alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**ALL: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: God for whom we wait,

**ALL: in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

Pastor: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**ALL: Amen.**

**HYMN #249** “ *On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry*” PUER NOBIS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 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.            |   |

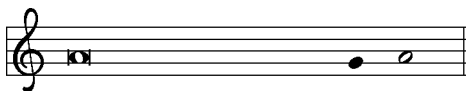
Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Composite

**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.**

**KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 OF THE ADVENT WREATH - ADVENT 2

Pastor: Let us gather in hope for the Advent of Christ.

Prepare the way.

**ALL: Prepare the way of the Lord.**

Pastor: Listen to the voice of the one who proclaims God's promises.

Prepare the way.

**ALL: Prepare the way of the Lord.**

Pastor: Look at how the Lord washes, purifies and refines us.

Prepare the way.

**ALL: Prepare the way of the Lord.**

Pastor: Praise the one who makes us worthy and pleasing to God.

Prepare the way.

**ALL: Prepare the way of the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us pray. By grace we have been made holy and acceptable to God. Joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus in the waters of baptism we are blessed. As we light another candle on the Advent Wreath remind us of your refining fire, the Spirit of Christ our Lord.

**ALL: Amen.**

*The second candle is lit.*

### **HYMN** *"We Light the Advent Candles"*

1	We light the Advent candles against the winter night to welcome our Lord Jesus, who is the world's true light; to welcome our Lord Jesus, who is the world's true light.	3	We light the second candle, and hear God's holy word. It tells us, cling to Jesus, prepare to meet your Lord. It tells us, cling to Jesus, prepare to meet your Lord.
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Text: Gracia Grindal © 1999 Hope Publishing Co.

### **WORD**

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

*The assembly is seated*

### **FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

*God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.*

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of

his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11**

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

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

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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**

**ALL: 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**

Assisting Minister: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence. Responding to each petition with the words "Your mercy is great".

*Silence for reflection.*

Assisting Minister: You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill especially...those we name aloud now...and those we hold in our hearts. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**ALL: Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**ALL: And also with you.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

### 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.*

### OFFERATORY HYMN: “Let The Vineyards be Fruitful”

*Nelson*



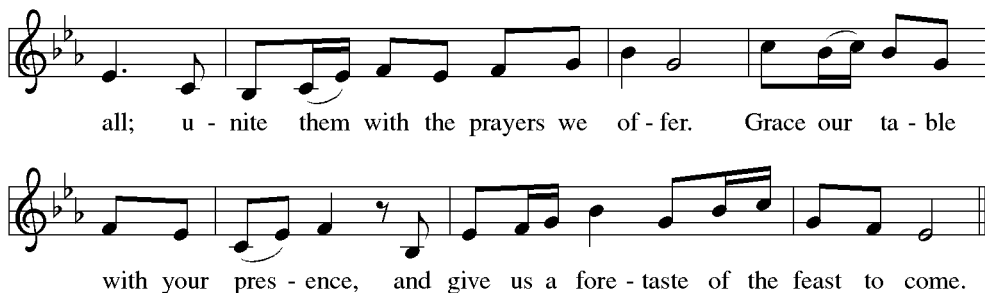
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**ALL: Amen**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

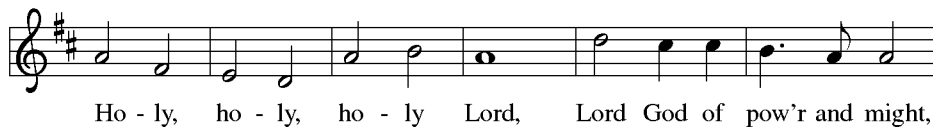
**ALL: We lift them to the lord.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 Mary's openness to your will.

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: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

### LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*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". Worshipers who are not yet communing are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*The assembly is invited to stand if able.*

### **TABLE BLESSING**

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

All: Amen.

### **POST COMMUNION SONG**



☞ Thank the Lord and sing God's praise; tell ev-'ry- one what God has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joyce and proud-ly bear God's name.



God re-calls the prom - is - es and leads the peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **ALL: Amen**

## SENDING

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

## 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.

**ALL: Amen**

## SENDING HYMN “Prepare the Royal Highway” BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

ELW 264

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Prepare the royal highway;<br>the King of kings is near!<br>Let ev'ry hill and valley<br>a level road appear!<br>Then greet the King of glory,<br>foretold in sacred story: | 3 Then fling the gates wide open<br>to greet your promised king!<br>Your king, yet ev'ry nation<br>its tribute too may bring.<br>All lands will bow before him;<br>their voices join your singing: <i>Refrain</i> |
|---|---|

### *Refrain*

Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

- 2 God's people, see him coming:  
your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you!

### *Refrain*

- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin.

## DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Christ is near. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE “Postlude in G”

**Altar Flowers** - The altar flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God by the Gess family in honor of Pastor Chris Bruesehoff's installation.

### **JOSEPH'S HOUSE BREAKFAST CASSEROLES**

Joseph's House continues its ministry to feed the homeless in Camden. Thank you to the "Casserole Crew" for their support. **The next opportunity to provide twelve (12) breakfast casseroles is Thursday, December 16.** Please sign up using the new automated link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094CAAAB23A7FA7-josephs8>. Casseroles can be dropped off at the Elkins Road door on December 16 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

### **DECORATING ST. MICHAELS**

On Saturday, December 19, we will be decorating St. Michaels for Christmas beginning at 12:00 Noon. Volunteers are welcome to help.

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

This year St. Michael's Un-Trim-A-Tree program will continue to assist families in the Lutheran Social Ministries houses in Camden. However, LSM has asked us to provide gift cards instead of gifts so that the LSM families will have an opportunity to do their own Christmas shopping. They are suggesting \$25 gift cards to Walmart because it is the closest, easily accessible store to Camden.

However, because we know that most of us would love to provide a gift, we were able to persuade LSM to provide suggestions for an **inexpensive** addition.

If possible, please return your gifts to St Michael's by **December 12**. However, we can make arrangements for late deliveries if you call Ruth Morgenroth at 856-261-3464.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School classes and Morning Hangout (7th-12th grade) will be at 9:30 a.m. **There will be no Sunday School on December 5th.**

We need volunteers to mentor the kids. If you are willing to mentor, please reach out to Liz or the Church office with the date (s) that you are available.



### **BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study will take a break and resume January 5. Please check the Parish calendar for dates and times. If you have any questions please contact the church office.

### **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 to prepare for the celebration. This year we will worship in person as well as stream the services live on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. The service begins at 7:30 and only runs about half an hour on Thursdays from December 9 to the 23, and they will be available afterward for people to worship whenever is convenient. Let us prepare the way of the Lord together!

### **CONFIRMATION MINISTRY**

The schedule for the next few weeks is as follows:

Wednesday, December 8 @ 7pm @ St. Michael's

Sunday, December 12 @ 6pm @ Holy Trinity

Wednesday, December 22 @ 7pm @ Holy Trinity

Sunday, January 9 @ 6pm @ St. Michael's

### **St. Michael's Youth Gathering Team**

St. Michael will be sponsoring Jocelyn, Evie, and Rebekah with the guidance of Elizabeth Winkelman and Pastor Mark Bruesehoff to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2022. The 2022 Gathering's theme is **boundless: God beyond measure**. As our St. Michael group prepares for the Gathering they will be taking time each month to focus on what it means for God's Love, Creation, Forgiveness, Invitation, and Promise to be boundless. At these meetings the group has fun, bonds, and discusses the Gathering theme. This has included putting on skits, making chalk drawings in front of the church, and being reminded that God loves you, no matter what you do. **Meeting Dates and Themes:** November/December - boundless Creation, January/February - boundless Forgiveness, March/April - boundless Invitation, May/June - boundless Promise

### **Thanksgiving Celebration thank you**

Our Social Outreach ministry would like to thank everyone who participated in providing "Thanksgiving dinner for four" for fifty families in LSM's Camden housing program. Thank you for being a blessing to others! The Social Outreach Committee

### **Poinsettia Flowers**

Order forms to sponsor poinsettias at the altar Christmas Eve are in the Narthex and on Constant Contact. The price is \$9/plant. Please have your sponsor forms in **no later than Monday, December 13 with your dedication.** Please print all of your information on the form. Thank you.

### **Committee Chairs and Ministry Leaders Annual Reports Due**



Submissions to the 2021 Annual Report Booklet are due by January 10, 2022. Please provide materials in electronic form - Word, Excel, or Publisher documents are most appreciated. Send materials to the Church Office by e-mail to [office@stmlutheran.org](mailto:office@stmlutheran.org). Please help tell the story of our ministries.

### **Flower Chart**

**The Flower Chart for 2022** 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 2021 flowers and have not yet made payment, please do so before the end of the year. Thank you for your generous participation!

### **2022 Council Nominations**

At the 2022 annual meeting the congregation will elect new members to serve on the church council for three-year terms. The Council enables the church to carry out its mission and ministries. The time required is to attend one regular council meeting each month. Most meetings last one hour and there are usually no meetings in July and August. In addition, council members are asked to support an area of ministry. You can nominate yourself or another voting member. Nominations can be given to the Nominating Committee: Martha Burke, Geoff Castle, Kay McConnell and John Winkelman. We are a very blessed congregation! Please prayerfully consider how you can be involved and make a difference in our life together.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR October 31, 2021 (YTD)**

Statement of Income and Expense  
Actual General Fund Income (ALL) = \$264,521  
Actual General Fund Expenses = \$261,233  
Income is exceeding expenses by \$3,288

**Note:** Actual General Fund Income includes the transfer of 2020 Memorial Fund Income, \$9,145; the transfer of Rental Fund Reserves, \$25,000; and, the receipt of the SBA Payroll Protection Program grant, \$30,612.

### **Treasurer's Note**

At our Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021, we approved a General Fund spending plan that anticipated our monthly total contributions income would average \$19,955 through October. In October, the monthly total was \$18,099, **9% less** than the average budgeted. For the ten months ending October 31st, our budgeted monthly total contribution income projection was \$199,546. Our actual total for the ten months was \$193,224. This is **3% less** than our projection.

**St. Michael's Lutheran Church**  
Joyously invites you to the installation of

**Rev. Christopher M. Bruesehoff, as Pastor**  
Today Sunday, December 5, 2021,  
At 3:00 PM

The Rev. Tracie Bartholomew, Bishop of the NJ Synod,  
will preside.

Reception dinner immediately following in the social hall  
All are invited to attend.

All rostered ministers are invited to attend and vest.  
We will not process due to our Covid-19 precautions.  
(The color of the day is blue)

On behalf of the Congregation Council, I am pleased to invite you to a Service of Installation! The rite, presided by Rev. Tracie Bartholomew, Bishop of the NJ Synod, will formally recognize our pastoral call. We rejoice that the Holy Spirit brought Pastor Chris and St. Michael's together in 2020 and we are excited about the future of our ministry. Everyone is invited to share in a time of fellowship immediately after the Installation. A catered dinner will be served in the social hall.

In Peace,  
Kim Billet  
Congregation Council President