

# ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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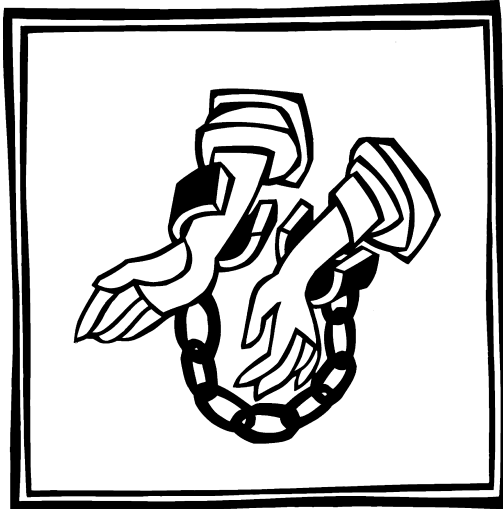
*Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ*

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<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.

<sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:



<sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” <sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 23, 2022  
at 8:15 AM & 11:00 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.*

*Ministers: The People of St. Michael's  
The Reverend Christopher Bruesehoff, Pastor (pastor@stmlutheran.org)  
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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## INTRODUCTION

*God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

“Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior”

### 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 holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

**ALL: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: Most merciful God,

**ALL: we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation.**

**ALL: Amen.**

Pastor: Rejoice in this good news: In ☩ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **ALL: Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN *ELW 239* “Hark, the Glad Sound!”

*CHESTERFIELD*

- |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,<br>the Savior promised long;<br>let ev'ry heart prepare a throne<br>and ev'ry voice a song. | 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,<br>the bleeding soul to cure,<br>and with the treasures of his grace<br>to enrich the humble poor. |
| 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,<br>in Satan's bondage held.<br>The gates of brass before him burst,<br>the iron fetters yield.   | 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,<br>your welcome shall proclaim,<br>and heav'n's eternal arches ring<br>with your beloved name.    |

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

### 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



*¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!*  
*Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!*



*¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!*  
*Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!*



*Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra\_a-que-llos que\_a-ma\_el Se - ñor.*  
*And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.*



Yen la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.

And on earth . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL: Amen.**

## WORD

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

*The assembly is seated*

### **FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

*The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”*

Lector: A reading from Nehemiah.

<sup>1</sup>All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. <sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people,

“This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

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

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

*The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.*

Lector: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. <sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup>But strive for the greater gifts.

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

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,*

*a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!*  
*al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!*

## GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

*Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.*

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

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. <sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” <sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant,

and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

*The assembly is seated*

## **SERMON**

*The assembly is invited to stand*

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Assisting Minister: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made, responding to each petition with “Hear our Prayer”.

*A brief silence.*

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace,

**ALL: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace,

**ALL: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace,

**ALL: hear our prayer.**



Assisting Minister: Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression especially...those we name aloud now...and those we hold in our hearts. God of grace,

**ALL: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation. Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace,

**ALL: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn. Bring us together in your everlasting glory. God of grace,

**ALL: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**ALL: Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**ALL: And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated*

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

“The Word Who Sang the Light Into Creation”

## **MEAL**

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

## **OFFERING**

*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.*

**OFFERTORY: ELW #583 v.2**     *“Take My Life, That I May Be”*

*Refrain/Estrillo*

*To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -*  
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,

*da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón*  
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

*To stanzas* *Last time*  
*y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.*  
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,

not a mite would I with - hold;

take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry

*Refrain/Estrillo*  
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875–1955  
 Music: TOMA MI VOLUNTAD, William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956  
 Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. **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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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



San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.  
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.  
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la  
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el  
earth. . . . . Blest is he who comes in the

nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el  
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -  
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth. . . . .

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.  
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: 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: Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

## LAMB OF GOD



*Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;*  
*O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .*



*ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.*  
*have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.*



*Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;*  
*O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .*



*ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.*  
*have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.*



*Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;*  
*O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .*



*da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.*  
*grant us your peace, grant us your 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**

## **"United at the Table"**

UNIDOS EN LA FIESTA

*Refrain / Estribillo*

U - ni - dos en la fies - ta, la\_a - le - grí - a  
U - nit - ed at the ta - ble: all our joy is

se\_ha - ce can - ción. U - ni - dos en la fe,  
joined in song. U - nit - ed in the faith:

la\_a - le - grí - a se\_ha - ce\_o - ra - ción.  
all our joy to God be - longs.

1 Can - ta - re - mos al Se - ñor  
1 We will praise God, we will sing

a - le - lu - yas con him - nos y sal - mos,  
al - le - lu - ias with hymns and with psalm - o - dy;

por - que gran - de es el a - mor  
we will praise God for the love

*Refrain / Estribillo*  
que en no - so - tros por siem - pre mos - tró.  
that sus - tains us e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Joaquín Madurga; tr. Angel Mattos, b. 1947, and Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923

Music: UNIDOS EN LA FIESTA, Joaquín Madurga

Text and music © 1979, 1998 J. Madurga and San Pablo Internacional—SSP, admin. OCP Publications, sole U.S. agent. All rights reserved.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: We give you thanks, gracious God,  
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.  
Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all,  
strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.  
**ALL: Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## BLESSING

Pastor: God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,  
who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name,  
✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.  
**ALL: Amen**

## SENDING HYMN *ELW 314* “Arise, Your Light Has Come”

*FESTAL SONG*

- |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Arise, your light has come!<br>The Spirit's call obey;<br>show forth the glory of your God<br>which shines on you today.   | 3 Arise, your light has come!<br>All you in sorrow born,<br>bind up the brokenhearted ones<br>and comfort those who mourn.            |
| 2 Arise, your light has come!<br>Fling wide the prison door;<br>proclaim the captive's liberty,<br>good tidings to the poor. | 4 Arise, your light has come!<br>The mountains burst in song!<br>Rise up like eagles on the wing,<br>God's pow'r will make us strong. |

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

## DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *“Oh, Sing to God Above”*

## DIGITAL SIGN IN

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

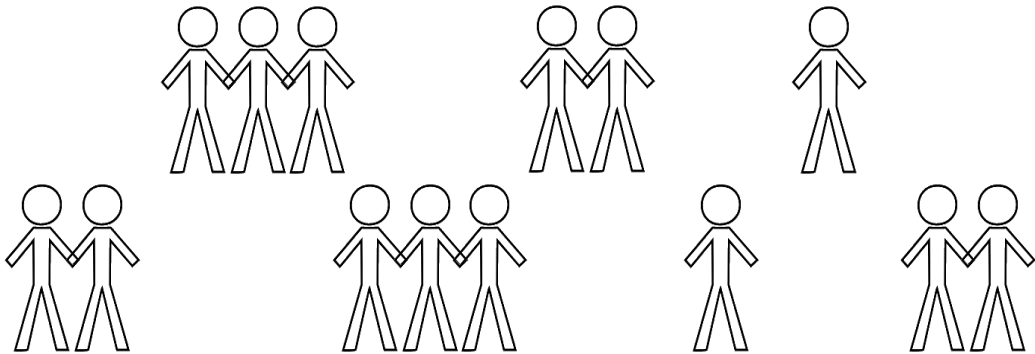




**Altar Flowers** - The altar flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God by Ruth Morgenroth; in celebration of family birthdays.

### **WORSHIP SEATING ARRANGEMENTS**

We recently eliminated our “every-other-pew” seating in the sanctuary in order to allow worshippers a little more flexibility when choosing where to sit. 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.



### **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, January 27.** Please sign up using the new automated link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094CAAAB23A7FA7-josephs9> . Casseroles can be dropped off at the Elkins Road door on January 27 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING**

The annual meeting of congregation is **Sunday, January 30**. We will gather in-person and virtually on Zoom after worship. The meeting will start at 11:30 am. Treasurer Anne Cassidy will host a in-person and virtual Budget Forum on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> in between services. Please plan to attend these two important events. Additional information has been sent via email and the US mail. If you have any questions please contact the church office.

### **WORSHIP VIDEO TECH TRAINING**

We're looking for a few more people to help with streaming worship. While it was born out of a need to offer worship in the midst of the pandemic, this system has allowed more access to worship for our homebound members and folks with various levels of accessibility. There will be a training this Sunday, January 23 at 12:30pm and on Monday, January 24 at 7:30pm for anyone interested in learning about how our streaming system works. Afterwards we will set up times to sit with one of our regular video people to get some hands on experience before you go "live".

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study is at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm. Please check the parish calendar for any changes. You are invited to join us In-person or on ZOOM. For more information and the Zoom link contact the church office.

### **CONFIRMATION MINISTRY**

The schedule for the next few weeks is as follows:

Wednesday, January 19 @ 7pm @ Holy Trinity, Sunday, January 23 @ 6pm @ St. Michael's, Sunday January 30 @ 6pm @ Holy Trinity

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School classes and Morning Hangout (7th-12th grade) will be at 9:30 a.m.

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.

### **16th Annual Mall Walk for the Homeless Sunday, February 27 at 2:30 PM at Voorhees Town Center**

St Michael's has been actively involved in the Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council (IHOC) for many years. IHOC is a group of congregations working together to address problems of those who are homeless and has served Camden County since 1991.

Everyone is welcome to join the walk to raise money for this worthwhile cause.

If you would like to walk, please pick-up a form on Sunday in the Narthex or see Ruth Morgenroth and begin your fund raising efforts. This is a fun and easy way for all of us to help IHOC. You can get your friends involved too.

### **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. 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.

### **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes for 2022 are now available in the narthex. Please use the numbers on your envelopes for all contributions starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

### **2022 ESTIMATED GIVING CARDS**

If you haven't returned your 2022 estimated giving card to the office, you can mail it in at your convenience or place it in the offering plate during any worship service.

### **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.

## **BISHOP'S CHALLENGE**

This year's Bishop's Challenge includes a discussion of the book by Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns*. This book uses the stories of three families to tell how and why millions of Black Americans left the South between 1915 and 1970 to escape the brutality of the Jim Crow Laws and find safety, better pay and more freedom, in what is known today as The Great Migration.

Join Ruth Morgenroth and Anne Cassidy for some discussions of the book. It is broken into 5 sections – we will read the first two sections together. We will meet in person or via Zoom weekly starting the week of 1/24. (We will pick a day that works best) These 4 meetings will take us through the week of 2/14. The following week Bishop Bartholomew will be hosting a final discussion of the book on Tuesday, Feb 22 or Thursday Feb 24 from 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

We have several copies of the book, so please see Ruth for a copy if you are interested in reading the book either as part of this group or on your own. We hope that you will join us in this journey to learn more about a period in American history that had an important impact on the country. It affected millions of African-Americans and shaped modern-day America.

Feel free to reach out to Ruth or Anne with any questions. Anne can be reached through email at [aecassidy3@gmail.com](mailto:aecassidy3@gmail.com).

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

Statement of Income and Expense

Actual General Fund Income (ALL) = \$323,808

Actual General Fund Expenses = \$323,808

Income matches expenses.

**(\$11,153** was moved to the General fund from the Memorial fund to balance the Year-end budget.)

**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 and the transfer of \$11,153 from the Memorial fund.

## **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 December. In December, the monthly total was \$30,003, **50% more** than the average budgeted. For the twelve months ending December 31st, our budgeted monthly total contribution income projection was \$239,455. Our actual total for the twelve months was \$238,418. This is on target at just **.4% less** than our projection.