

# St. Michael's

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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>9</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." Luke 3:7-9



<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Luke 3:8-13

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**December 19, 2021**  
**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.*

### 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

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**                    "Savior of the Nations, Come"

## 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 #251 “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

KINGSFOLD

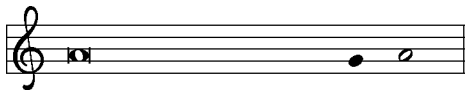
- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness,  
Lord;  
I sing my Savior's praise!  
You looked upon my lowliness,  
and I am full of grace.  
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age  
this blessing shall proclaim—  
great wonders you have done for me,  
and holy is your name.
- 2 To all who live in holy fear  
your mercy ever flows.  
With mighty arm you dash the proud,  
their scheming hearts expose.  
The ruthless you have cast aside,  
the lowly throned instead;  
the hungry filled with all good things,  
the rich sent off unfed.
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,  
your help is ever sure;  
the promise to our parents made  
their children will secure.  
Sing glory to the Holy One,  
give honor to the Word,  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,  
one God, by all adored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat Text © 1995

## 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.**

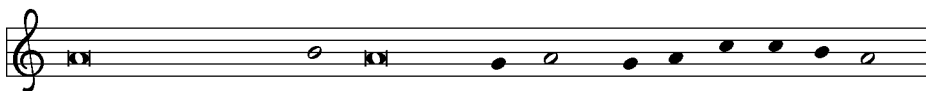
## KYRIE



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.



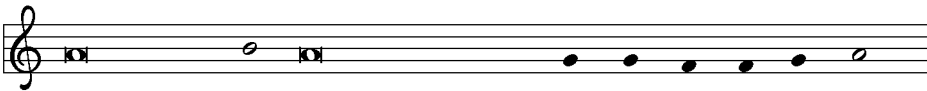
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **ALL: Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - ADVENT 4

Pastor: Let us be at peace as we watch for the coming of Christ.  
O little town of Bethlehem.

**ALL: Be gathered in the strength of the Lord.**

Pastor: From you shall come the one who was from the beginning.  
O little town of Bethlehem.

**ALL: Be gathered in the strength of the Lord.**

Pastor: We remember his birth. We wait for his return.  
O little town of Bethlehem.

**ALL: Be gathered in the strength of the Lord.**

Pastor: We yearn to be fed like sheep in his flock.  
O little town of Bethlehem.

**ALL: Be gathered in the strength of the Lord.**

Pastor: Our hope is in this gift. Let us pray.

As we light the fourth candle on our wreath keep us in your grace as we watch for the coming of Christ. He has accomplished our salvation and he will come again to judge the world in righteousness. He is the one who will give lasting peace. **ALL: Amen.**

*The fourth 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.	5	Four candles burning brightly announce that Christ has come. Prepare, my heart, believe it, and give the Christ child room! Prepare, my heart, believe it, and give the Christ child room!
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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: Micah 5:2-5a**

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

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

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." <sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 1:39-55**

*Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

Pastor: <sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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: Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need 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: Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. 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

“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.*

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

*Nelson*



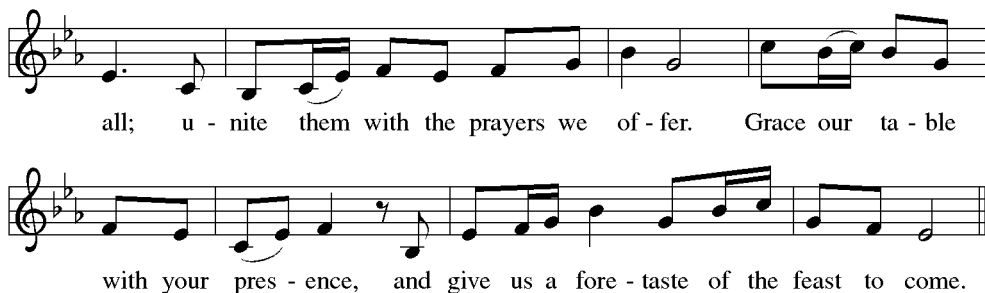
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



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



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.**

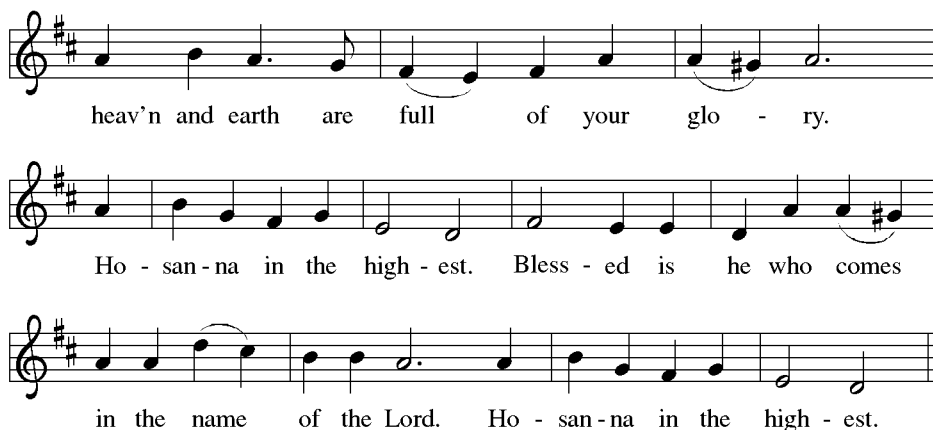
Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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





## EUCCHARISTIC 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 “*All Earth Is Hopeful*”

TODA LA TIERRA

ELW 266

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!<br>Furrows lie open for God's creative task:<br>this, the labor of people who struggle to see<br>how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.                | 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;<br>new highways opened, new protocols declared.<br>Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!<br>All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste! |
| 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:<br>"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";<br>she conceived him, "God with us,"<br>our brother, whose birth<br>restores hope and courage to children of this earth. | 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.<br>This same Lord Jesus today has come to live<br>in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see<br>our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free. .                     |

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

## DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE “*On TODA LA TIERRA*”

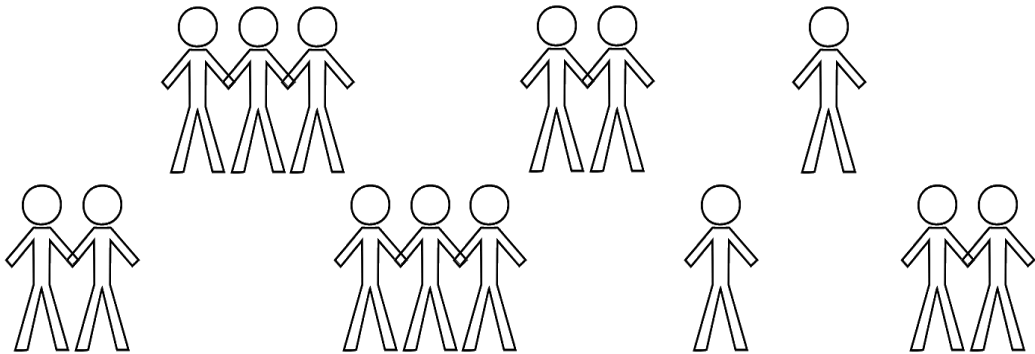
### **DIGITAL SIGN IN**

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



### **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. We know it isn't perfect but we are trying to keep each other as safe as possible while worshipping this Christmas.



***Altar Flowers*** - The altar flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God by Chas VanHorn in celebration of the Christ Child.

### **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 Thursday, December 23, and it will be available afterward for people to worship whenever is convenient. Let us prepare the way of the Lord together!



### **DECORATING ST. MICHAELS**

This afternoon we will be decorating St. Michaels for Christmas beginning at 12:00 Noon. Volunteers are welcome to help.

### **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.

### **CONFIRMATION MINISTRY**

The schedule for the next few weeks is as follows:

Sunday, January 9 @ 6pm @ St. Michael's  
Wednesday, January 19 @ 7pm @ Holy Trinity  
Sunday, January 23 @ 6pm @ St. Michael's

### **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.

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

Thank you to everyone at St. Michael's who helped make a Merry Christmas for families at Lutheran Social Ministries.

### **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

### **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.

### **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!

### **Offering Envelopes**

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

**FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR  
November 30, 2021 (YTD)**

Statement of Income and Expense  
Actual General Fund Income (ALL) = \$280,552  
Actual General Fund Expenses = \$296,386  
Income is exceeding expenses by \$15,834

**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 November. In November, the monthly total was \$14,741, **26% less** than the average budgeted. For the eleven months ending November 30th, our budgeted monthly total contribution income projection was \$219,501. Our actual total for the eleven months was \$208,265. This is **5% less** than our projection.

## **Christmas Eve Worship Services**

Friday, December 24  
at 4:30pm and 10:00pm

### **Advent Holden Evening Prayer**

December 23  
at 7:30pm

### **Service of Lesson and Carols**

Sunday, December 26  
at 10:00am



*Joy to the World!*

**Christmas is here**

*Our 11am Sunday services, all Christmas Eve Services, Advent Holden Evening Prayer, and the Service of Lessons and Carols will be streamed live to Facebook and YouTube.*