

St. Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."
¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.
Mark 1:9-12



¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Mark 1:13-15

**1st Sunday in Lent
February 21, 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.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 21 - First Sunday in Lent

8:15 AM Virtual Worship Available on Facebook and YouTube
11:00 AM Virtual Worship Available on Facebook and YouTube
12:30 PM Sunday School - Outdoor Event
12:30-2:30 PM Easter Dinner Bag Drive Through Pick UP

Monday, February 22

No Scheduled Activities

Tuesday, February 23

No Scheduled Activities

Wednesday, February 24

11:00 AM Bible Study - Zoom Only

7:00 PM Bible Study - Zoom Only

Thursday, February 25

10:00 AM- 12:00 PM Joseph's House Casserole Drop-Off

Friday, February 26

No Scheduled Activities

Saturday, February 27

No Scheduled Activities

Sunday, February 28 - Second Sunday in Lent

8:15 AM Virtual Worship Available on Facebook and YouTube
11:00 AM Virtual Worship Available on Facebook and YouTube
12:00 PM 15th Annual Mall Walk (Voorhees Town Center)
6:00 PM Confirmation Holy Trinity - Zoom Only

Ministers: The People of St. Michael's

The Reverend Christopher Bruesehoff, Pastor (pastor@stmlutheran.org)

Mark P. Dishong, Director of Music (markdishong@gmail.com)

601 Kings Highway N., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

856-667-0973, Fax: 856-755-1247

office@stmlutheran.org www.stmichaelslutheranchurch.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" - arr. J. Bert Carlson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

All: Amen.

Pastor: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion. Fountain of living water,

All: pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

All: Amen.

KYRIE #151 "Kyrie"



1, 3	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2	Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3	Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
2	Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The Readings:

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

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

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

Gospel – Mark 1:9-15

Pastor: The holy Gospel according to Mark. **All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

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

SERMON

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we
may sing your praise eternally.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

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

Pastor: On this first Sunday in Lent, let us pray boldly for all in need, responding to each petition with words echoing words from Psalm 51, “In you we put our trust.”

Relying on you, O God of our salvation, we pray for the church throughout the world, that strengthened by the promises of baptism, we discern your way of truth and justice, and reject the attractive lures of evil. Sustain those Christians who are beset with temptations or hardship. Receive our prayers, O righteous God:

ALL: In you we put our trust.

Pastor: Remembering Deaconess Elizabeth Fedde, we pray for all deacons and deaconesses, that they serve those in need with constancy and joy. Empower our congregation's ministries of care, and provide the funds needed for service. Receive our prayers, O generous God:

ALL: In you we put our trust.

Pastor: Grateful for a plenteous creation, we pray that you preserve the wild beasts and keep lands from being flooded by waters. Encourage the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators, that we all come to appreciate more about the wonders that you create. Receive our prayers, O creative God:

ALL: In you we put our trust.

Pastor: Distressed by injustice and violence, we pray for leaders who govern in our nation and around the world, that they strive for equality and concord in all things. Visit the people of Myanmar and Sudan and stem the might of tyrants the world over. Receive our prayers, O sovereign God:

ALL: In you we put our trust.

Pastor: Alert to the difficulties of wintertime, we pray for all who are cold, for all the homeless, for refugees awaiting assistance, and for all whose employment requires them to endure brutal weather. Surround them with a community of concern. Receive our prayers, O warm-hearted God:

ALL: In you we put our trust.

Pastor: Pained by the suffering of others, we pray for all who are sick, especially those we name here before you: . . . We pray for all who have contracted COVID-19, for those who are bowed down by trials of any

kind, for those who face natural disasters, for those whose suffering is known only to you. Comfort those who feel desolate. Give health and wholeness to all who suffer. Receive our prayers, O benevolent God:

ALL: In you we put our trust.

Pastor: Praying also for ourselves, we ask your Spirit to accompany us through each wilderness that we must endure. Hear now the desires of our hearts. Receive our prayers, O tender and mighty God:

ALL: In you we put our trust.

Pastor: We praise you for the Christians of time past, especially Polycarp and all the martyrs who died in their witness to you. Give us the faith that at the end, your rainbow will bring endless beauty to all things. Receive our prayers, O splendid God:

ALL: In you we put our trust.

Pastor: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Thy Holy Wings" - arr/ Mark Sedio

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **All: Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray:

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Pastor: Holy God, our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide, by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs, and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness. For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.

All: We thank you, O God.

Pastor: We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert, calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness, and walking with us into newness of life. For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.

All: We glorify you, O God.

Pastor: Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit, that strengthened by your Word, we may care for others and for the world you made, and work for justice and peace for all. For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.

All: We praise you, O God.

Pastor: Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing, Holy God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

All: Amen

SENDING HYMN *ELW #326*

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

LLANGLOFFAN

1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.

3 Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.

2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Share the good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Oh Christ, Thou Lamb of God ” - Setting by Henry V. Gerike

DEDICATION: The dedication this week is by Kay, Wayne and Jimmy McConnell, Kasie Brooks, Megan, Kyle and Kevin Ryan in memory of Nancy Ryan.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The next Sunday school gathering will be **today, Sunday February 21, at 12:30 PM. This is an outdoor event.** For more information contact Liz DeBacker or the church office.

Easter Dinner Bags

Fifty Wegmans reusable bags and a list of suggested food items will be available Feb 21 at a drive-through pick up from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. After that date, any remaining bags can be picked up outside the Elkins Road door.



Monetary donations are invited to purchase holiday main courses to go with the bags and to address food insecurity in our community. Write "*Easter Dinner Bags*" on your check and envelope; please mail to the church office by March 21.

Filled bags should be returned by Sunday, March 28th. Bags and monetary gifts will be delivered to Lutheran Social Ministries North Camden Affordable Housing on Monday, March 29th.

BIBLE STUDY/ADULT EDUCATION

Bible Study will be on February 24, at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM over Zoom. The text will be Mark 8:31-38. If you have a chance please read the text before we meet. For more information check the weekly email or contact the church office.

JOSEPH'S HOUSE BREAKFAST CASSEROLES

Joseph's House continues its ministry to feed the homeless in Camden. Thank you to the "Casserole Crew" for ongoing support. Everyone is invited to contribute - the recipe is easy! **The next opportunity to provide twelve (12) breakfast casseroles is Thursday, February 25.** Try out the new online sign-up tool! Please email Lisa Gess (gessimg@aol.com) with questions. Casseroles can be dropped off at the Elkins Road door from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

15th Annual Mall Walk – Feb. 28th

The Mall Walk is different this year, but it is still easy to participate in one of three ways:

1. Walk in-person at the Voorhees Town Center on Feb 28 at 12:00 Noon – only one lap through the mall, socially distanced and wearing a mask.
2. Do a virtual walk any time before Feb 28. Virtual walkers are invited to share photos or videos on IHOC's Facebook Group
3. Sponsor a SMLC walker: **Nate and Liz DeBacker, Sydney Misunas, Kay McConnell or Lisa Gess.** Contact walkers directly or mail donations to the church office. Make checks payable to "IHOC Mall Walk." Sponsor a SMLC walker on IHOC's website: <https://www.interfaithhomelessoutreachcouncilsj.org/sponsor-me/>. All gifts needed by 2/ 28.

For the past few years, our mall walk team has helped IHOC raise more funds than any other group. Let's keep it going! Contact Lisa Gess, Kay McConnell or Ruth Morgenroth for more information.



St. Michael's 2020 Mall Walk Team

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS FRIDAY NIGHT HANGOUT!

These will be a Zoom gathering **7-9PM** on March 26. Come for the whole time or part of the time. Look for an email with the date and Zoom link.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will be held on February 28, 6:00 PM, on Holy Trinity Zoom only and March 7, 6:00 PM, on St. Michael's Zoom only. If you need information to connect to this class please contact Pastor Chris.

LSM – Food Pantry

Lutheran Social Ministries manages affordable housing in North Camden and a senior residence in Pennsauken. Our feeding ministry provides groceries monthly. **These items are requested:** Instant oatmeal in single servings, Old-fashioned oatmeal, Beefaroni, Spaghetti O's or Mini Ravioli, Cooking oils or sprays, Long grain white rice (box or 1- 2 pound bags), Tuna, chicken, corned beef or Vienna sausages, Beans - black, pink or red, Canned pineapple or mixed fruits, Canned or dry soup – chicken or vegetable flavors, Apple juice, iced tea mix or regular tea bags, Milk - shelf stable, powdered or canned evaporated, Toilet tissue and paper towels, Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, deodorant, feminine hygiene items, Hispanic Adobo or Sazon seasoning; Goya tomato sauce, Flour – white or corn meal

H.O.P.E. Grief Support Group

Helping Other People Evolve (H.O.P.E.) is a support group for those who have lost a spouse, partner or significant other. For over 40 years, it has comforted and supported people with their grieving experience. In-person meetings at St. Michael's are on hold. However, H.O.P.E. continues to host meetings on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 PM on Zoom. The next session begins Jan 6. For info call group leader Jean Hughes at 856-983-8867 or visit www.hopesnj.org.

Church Office Update

We continue to practice safe distancing to prevent the virus spread. Kelly Mosley has a flexible schedule, including working at home a few days a week. Her schedule varies based on office needs. We ask the congregation to communicate with Kelly by phone or email as much as possible. If a visit to the church is required, please make an appointment in advance. This ensures that member visits are coordinated with those of service providers/vendors. Please use the container outside the Elkins Road door to drop things off. Thank you for understanding the current limits on office access. We all look forward to things returning to normal!

FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR January 31, 2021

Statement of Income and Expense

Actual General Fund Income (ALL) = \$25,704

Actual General Fund Expenses = \$29,169

We are currently tracking a deficit of (-\$3,645) as a result of expenses exceeding income.

Treasurer's Note

At our Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021, we approved a General Fund spending plan that anticipated our monthly total income would average \$20,449. In January, monthly total income was \$25,704, 26% greater than the average. We are off to a good start.

In the Other Income category of our spending plan, we learned on February 9, 2021 that our application for a 2nd round Payroll Protection Program loan/grant was approved and that \$30,612 was wire transferred into our TD Bank account on February 8, 2021.

COVID-19 WORSHIP COMMANDMENTS

- * If you are sick, have a fever, are coughing, or have been in contact with someone diagnosed or showing symptoms of COVID – 19, please stay at home.
- * If you are immuno-compromised be very careful. Consider watching the service at home on Facebook Live.
- * Wear a mask at all times while in the building. Masks will be available if you should need one. No Mask – No admittance!
- * Use hand sanitizer upon entry into the building. Please be aware of surfaces you touch.
- * Bulletins and sanitizing supplies can be obtained at a special table set up in the narthex.
- * Sit in the pew you are directed to by the usher. Seating has been reduced to maintain Social Distancing of six feet or more.
- * Offerings will not be collected during the service; a collection plate will be available at each entrance to the sanctuary.
- * There will be no personal greetings at the door before or after worship.
- * Avoid physical contact with anyone you are not related to and living with.
- * There will be no passing of the peace or personal contact during the service.
- * Worship leaders will maintain safe distancing.
- * Unfortunately, there will be no congregational singing; Hum, Mouth the words, or Close your eyes and think the words.
- * Water fountains are off-limits. You may bring your own bottled water or small bottles will be made available. Please take bottles with you.
- * Wash your hands often.