

St. Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. Mark 1:4-7



⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." 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."

Mark 1:8-11

Baptism of Our Lord
January 10, 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, January 10 - Baptism of Our Lord

8:15 AM Virtual Worship Available on Facebook and YouTube
11:00 AM Virtual Worship Available on Facebook and YouTube
6:00 PM Confirmation Holy Trinity - Zoom Only

Monday, January 11

No Scheduled Activities

Tuesday, January 12

7:00 PM Council Meeting - Zoom Only

Wednesday, January 13

11:00 AM Bible Study - Zoom Only
7:00 PM Confirmation St. Michael's - Zoom Only

Thursday, January 14

No Scheduled Activities

Friday, January 15

No Scheduled Activities

Saturday, January 16

No Scheduled Activities

Sunday, January 17—2nd Epiphany

8:15 AM Virtual Worship Available on Facebook and YouTube
11:00 AM Virtual Worship Available on Facebook and YouTube

*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

*From SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24280 and OneLicense.net #A-711336.
New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ
in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “When Jesus Came to Jordan” arr. Janet Linker

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Pastor: Holy God,

you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God’s grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God’s own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God’s forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ’s justice and the Spirit’s reconciling peace. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN #455 “Crashing Waters of Creation” *STUTTGART*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Crashing waters at creation,
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
first to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death: | 3 Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the one foretold,
opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old. |
| 2 Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,
washing off the chains of bondage—
channel to a life made new. | 4 Living water, never ending,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Wellspring, source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole. |

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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: Let us pray. Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, 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 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John’s baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

Gospel – Mark 1:4-11

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

Mark’s gospel reports the story of Jesus’ baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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.” Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: #453

“Baptized and Set Free”

BAPTIZED AND SET FREE

1 We are people created,
chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently,
in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing,
and wholeness and more.

2 We are fed and we're nourished,
filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and
again we are blessed.
For whatever the need,
God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper
than all of our need.

3 We are nourished by water,
all living things,
and by life that the Spirit
abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home,
may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing,
now carry us home.

4 Now with praise and thanksgiving,
we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather
to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free!
From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water,
baptized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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

Pastor: On this Sunday of the baptism of our Lord, let us offer our prayers for all in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "Give us your blessings of peace."

A brief silence.

For the worldwide church; for those who minister in the church; for all who will be baptized this year; and for their godparents and sponsors: that the Holy Spirit will empower all the faithful for lives of service, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

ALL: Give us your blessings of peace.

For the waters of the earth; for the seas, the lakes, the rivers; for the wells that provide drinking water; and for the water that is piped into our homes: that God provide clean and nourishing water for all living things, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

ALL: Give us your blessings of peace.

For the nations of the world and their leaders; for international efforts to prevent war and reduce violence; for

the armed forces; for police officers; and for peacemakers: that God inspire all people to work for the harmonious well-being of others, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

ALL: Give us your blessings of peace.

For students; for teachers and school administrators; for parents assisting their children in home schooling; and for young people who are finding a way toward graduation: that as the academic year resumes, God give resilience to everyone in the search for education, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

ALL: Give us your blessings of peace.

For all who are in trouble, want, or sickness; for the countless who are suffering with COVID-19; for medical workers; for people who are hungry or homeless, imprisoned or lonely; and for those we name here. . . .: that God grant health and wholeness to a world so filled with pain, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

ALL: Give us your blessings of peace.

For ourselves: that we rejoice in our adoption as members of God's family, and that now in this silence we bring to God our heart's requests, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

ALL: Give us your blessings of peace.

In gratitude for our beloved dead, we offer our praise for all the baptized who have accompanied us and supported us and taught us throughout our days; that at our end we join with them in everlasting joy, let us pray. O God, give strength to your people.

ALL: Give us your blessings of peace.

Almighty and most merciful God, you are the mighty Voice from heaven, you are our beloved Savior, you are the descending Dove. We give you thanks for all your goodness and tender mercies, and we ask you to accept our prayers for the sake of your mercy, today and forever.

ALL: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"As the Sun with Longer Journey" - Setting by David Cherwien

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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 OF THE WORD

Pastor: Holy God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world, and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life. For your wondrous Word, we thank you, O God.

ALL: We thank you, O God.

Pastor: In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh, to shine in our world's darkness, to speak peace to all people, and to welcome us as members of your family. For your loving Word, we adore you, O God.

ALL: We adore you, O God.

Pastor: Grant us now the gift of your Spirit, that held, nourished, and protected by your Word, we may live as your children, bearing your goodness throughout the world. For your powerful Word, we praise you, O God.

ALL: We praise you, O God.

Pastor: All glory to you, holy God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day † through the Word made flesh.

ALL: Amen

SENDING HYMN ELW #673 *“God Whose Almighty Word”*

ITALIAN HYMN

1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

2 Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.

4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God” - arr. Emily Maxson Porter

CONFIRMATION

The next confirmation meeting will be today, January 10, 6:00 PM, Zoom only. If you need information to connect to this class please contact Pastor Chris.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your faithful giving supports the ministries of the church. 2021 offering envelopes are available now. Please contact the church office (office@stmlutheran.org) to schedule a "no-contact" pick up at the Elkins Road door. Picking up your envelopes helps the church keep postage costs down. Let us know if you do not plan to use your envelopes because you have switched to one of our electronic giving options. Thank you!

BIBLE STUDY/ADULT EDUCATION

Morning Bible Study will be on January 13 at 11am over Zoom. Evening Bible Study will resume over Zoom on January 20 at 7pm. 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 contributions in 2020. Everyone is invited to contribute - the recipe is easy! **The next opportunity to provide twelve (12) breakfast casseroles is Thursday, January 21.** Please email Lisa Gess (gesslmg@aol.com) if you can help. Casseroles can be dropped off at the Elkins Road door on Jan 21 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS FRIDAY NIGHT HANGOUT!

We will start having Friday Night Hangouts again. These will be a Zoom gathering **7-9PM** on the third or fourth Friday of each month. We will meet again **January 22**. Come for the whole time or part of the time. Look for an email with the Zoom link.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The annual meeting of congregation is **Sunday, January 31**. We will gather virtually on Zoom after worship. Additional details will be provided. Treasurer Joe La Rose will host a virtual Budget Forum on Sunday, January 24. The budget session gives the congregation a preview of our financial picture in advance of the annual meeting. Please plan to attend these two important events.

2021 ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

We continue to make weekly dedications while worshipping virtually. Dedications can be made to the glory of God or may be offered in remembrance, thanksgiving or celebration. Please contact the church office to indicate your dedication and date. The sign up chart to sponsor flowers will be available when we resume in-person worship. We are also exploring an online sign up tool - stay tuned for details soon.

H.O.P.E. Grief Support Group

The holiday season can be a lonely time, especially with the isolation brought by covid. 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.

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

SAVE THE DATE

The conversation on Racial Justice, Equity and Inclusion continues with action planning
Saturday January 16, 2021
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM via Zoom



Follow [this link](#) to sign up today!

Sponsored by The New Jersey Synod Anti-Racism Team

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM - FOOD PANTRY PROJECT

In conjunction with our annual Bag a Thanksgiving drive, St. Michael's participated in a Thrivent initiative to reward congregations that collected over 500 food items for a local pantry by November 15th. St. Michaels received a \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant to help jump start our efforts. As a result of filling the fifty Wegmans reusable bags with an average of 15 food items, the North Camden Affordable Housing Food Pantry, the beneficiary of our drive, received a \$500 check from Thrivent. Your generosity, in addition to being greatly appreciated by the North Camden residents, was doubly rewarded with gifts totaling \$750 from Thrivent! Thank you to Vivian Gano, the Thrivent account member who submitted our application to participate in this service activity.

There is potential for future Thrivent Action Team projects to help with fundraisers, educational opportunities, or service activities in our community. Anyone with any kind of Thrivent Financial (formerly Lutheran Brotherhood and The Aid Association for Lutherans) product is eligible to apply for an Action Team grant. We would like to assemble a list of St. Michaels members who are Thrivent Financial members interested in future Thrivent Action Team opportunities. Note: There is no cost to the Thrivent member. For more information you can go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-action-teams.html>. If you are a Thrivent accountholder and would like to help, please give your name to Kelly in the church office. Contact Pastor Chris, Lisa Gess or Joe LaRose with questions.

FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR
December 31, 2020 (through 52 Sundays)

Statement of Income and Expense
Actual General Fund Income (ALL) = \$275,194
Actual General Fund Expenses = \$294,737
We are currently tracking a deficit of (-\$19,543) as a result of
expenses exceeding income.

General Fund Income includes the \$14,200 SBA Payroll Protection Program grant. Absent the SBA grant, our 2020 General Fund Budget performance at December 31, 2020 results in expenses exceeding income by (-\$33,743). Income in the month of December exceeded December income by \$2,282.
The Financial Secretary's preliminary Report for December 31, 2020 discloses Total Income to be down \$16,380 from the same period of 2019.

Treasurer's Note

The Covid 19 shutdown of in-person worship and the subsequent restricted capacity reopening has had a negative effect on our Church operating account cash flow. Last month, I thought it prudent to liquidate one of our certificates of deposits and transfer the proceeds into the operating checking account to ensure future disbursements would be funded. We were blessed to have a reserve to draw down. There is a lot of uncertainty as to when there will be a return to normal. Our certainty is that, going forward through the end of this year and going into 2021, St. Michael's needs your continued faithful stewardship to survive the Covid-19 pandemic.

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.
- * The pastor will lead the liturgy and read all lessons to uphold safe distancing.
- * Unfortunately, there will be no 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.