

St. Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.

Mark 1:14-17



¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."

¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Mark 1:18-20

Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 24, 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 24 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

8:15 AM Virtual Worship Available on Facebook and YouTube
11:00 AM Virtual Worship Available on Facebook and YouTube
12:30 PM Budget Forum - Zoom Only
2:00 PM Sunday School - Outdoor Event
6:00 PM Confirmation at Holy Trinity - Zoom Only

Monday, January 25

No Scheduled Activities

Tuesday, January 26

No Scheduled Activities

Wednesday, January 27

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

Thursday, January 28

No Scheduled Activities

Friday, January 29

No Scheduled Activities

Saturday, January 30

No Scheduled Activities

Sunday, January 31 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 AM Virtual Worship Available on Facebook and YouTube
11:30 AM Annual Congregation Meeting - Zoom Only

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “An Epiphany Prelude” Charles Callahan

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.

All: Amen.

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

All: 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.

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN #817 “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

1 You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy, but only
asking for me to follow.

Refrain

Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.

2 You know full well what I have, Lord:
neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
just these my fish nets and will for working.

Refrain

3 You need my hands, my exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the weary--
a love that's willing to go on loving. *Refrain*

4 You who have fished other waters;
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
O loving Friend, you have come to call me.
Refrain

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936-1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

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. Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

The Readings:

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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

Gospel – Mark 1:14-20

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

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

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." ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: #798

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

KELVINGROVE

- 1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?"
- 2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?"
- 3 "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
- 4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"
- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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: Responding together to Christ's call, let us offer our prayers for all in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "Our hope is in you."

A brief silence.

Pastor: We pray for the church, especially our bishops, pastors, deacons, musicians, and servers, that God's Spirit empower all the baptized with wisdom to follow Christ's call. O God our salvation, receive our prayer:

All: Our hope is in you.

Pastor: We pray for Sunday schools and for all parish education, for teachers and participants, young and old, that God form the faithful even when classes cannot regularly meet in person. O God our power, receive our prayer:

All: Our hope is in you.

Pastor: We pray for the earth, its seas, lakes, and rivers, for their myriad creatures, and for those whose livelihood depends upon them, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide an ecological care for creation. O God our rock, receive our prayer:

All: Our hope is in you.

Pastor: We pray for the nations, for our elected and appointed leaders, for racial concord in our cities, and for those who have been considered our enemies, that God lead the world into commonwealths of justice and peace. O God our stronghold, receive our prayer:

All: Our hope is in you.

Pastor: We pray for those who are charged with maintaining an ordered society, for state and local law enforcement, and for the military, that God guide the powerful to serve the common good. O God our refuge, receive our prayer:

All: Our hope is in you.

Pastor: We pray for relief from COVID-19, for the fearful, the sick, and the dying, for medical workers, for all who await the vaccine, for the unemployed and the quarantined, that God uphold the world's people through this time of affliction. O God in whom we trust, receive our prayer:

All: Our hope is in you.

Pastor: We pray for all who are sick, distressed, or grieving, especially for . . . , those that we name aloud now, and those that we hold in our hearts, that God sustain and comfort those who suffer. O God our deliverance, receive our prayer:

All: Our hope is in you.

Pastor: We pray finally for ourselves, that as we pour out our hearts to God, our faith in divine mercy be renewed. O God of steadfast love, receive our prayer:

All: Our hope is in you.

Pastor: We join in thanksgiving for all your people from ancient times until today who have lived and died in faith, and we pray that at our end God unite us with them in everlasting peace. O God of eternal might, receive our prayer:

All: Our hope is in you.

Pastor: Merciful God, receive the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" - arr. John Helgen

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

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 OF THE WORD

Pastor: Holy God, Holy God, Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness, we hear your Word in the scriptures, proclaiming to us your wisdom and inviting us to follow your call. For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.

All: We thank you, O God.

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother, who preached your righteousness, healed the sick, and revived the brokenhearted. For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.

All: We worship you, O God.

By your Spirit, bless all who receive this Word, that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.

All: We praise you, O God.

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us, now and forever.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace. **All: Amen**

SENDING HYMN *ELW #815 "I Want to Walk as Child of the Light"* HOUSTON

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus. | 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. <i>Refrain</i> |
| <i>Refrain</i>
In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus. | 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. <i>Refrain</i> |

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Text © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed" - arr. Aaron David Miller

DEDICATION: The dedication this week is by Kelly Daly and Ray Kratz in loving memory of Kelly's brother William A. Daly.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will be held on January 27, 7:00 PM, on Zoom only and February 3, 7:00 PM, on Zoom only. If you need information to connect to this class please contact Pastor Chris.

BIBLE STUDY/ADULT EDUCATION

Bible Study will be on January 27 at 11:00 AM over Zoom, there will be no evening Bible Study this week. The text will be Mark 1:21-28. If you have a chance please read the text before we meet. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Chris.

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 in **February**. Come for the whole time or part of the time. Look for an email with the date and Zoom link.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The next Sunday school gathering will be **Sunday January 24, at 2:00 PM. This is an outdoor event.** For more information contact Liz DeBacker or the church office.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The annual meeting of congregation is **Sunday, January 31 at 11:30 AM.** We will gather virtually on Zoom after 10:00 AM worship. Additional details will be provided. Treasurer Joe La Rose will host a virtual Budget Forum on **Sunday, January 24 at 12:30 PM.** 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

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.
- * 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.