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The Treasures of Darkness

"I will give you the hidden treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places..."
-Isaiah 43:3a

As the days shorten and the nights grow longer, we find ourselves dwelling in the darkness. The night falls over us like a heavy blanket, covering the late afternoons with edges pulled tight to meet the morning hours. It's not easy to live in the dark, when our bodies respond to the 5 o'clock hour as if it were the sleepy hours of midnight. Coffee is consumed before the morning sun even reaches the kitchen table and commutes are made with streetlight illuming the highway.

No, it is not easy to live in the dark, but I have recently been captivated by the polar nights of Svalbard, the Norwegian archipelago north of the arctic circle. The sun set for the last time this year in Svalbard on October 26th and for the next 2.5 months it will stay below the horizon blessing the people of the artic a ceaseless night. "We savor the calm it brings," says resident Fåln Strøm, "this darkness is complete, so you have to sort of live with that and you have to see the beauty in that. And to me, that's not hard at all... if you look at the darkness as a limiting thing, well, then you're going to get limited by



it. But if you see it as an opportunity to experience something else...[then] it's easier to find the beauty in the darkness." (Morning Edition, NPR. November 11 2022)

The beauty in darkness is not always something our eyes are trained to see. Darkness in scripture, literature, and music is often used to symbolize despair, uncertainty, and fear. This happens in our spiritual language as well when darkness is used to describe the places God is not. In her book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, author Barbara Brown Taylor doesn't deny that the light/dark distinction can be helpful symbolism in understanding our ever-changing relationship with God, but along with naming the problems of associating dark with evil and light with good (such as the racism it perpetuates) she reminds us that the darkness is not opposite of God's presence. In fact, the darkness is God's chosen creative space. For out of darkness, the cosmos came into order and the world was birthed. Out of darkness, God fashioned light. In the darkness of Mary's womb Christ was formed. In the darkness of night Christ was born and in the darkness of the tomb Christ conquered death.

The witness woven throughout the biblical narrative is that God dwells deeply in darkness. In the darkness of night God freed the Israelites slaves as they began their exodus from Egypt. In the darkness of night, the angels encountered the shepherds and led them to the Christ child. In the darkness brought by blindness, a violent, angry man named Saul repented and was converted to Paul, the great Apostle of Christ.

It seems that the Christmas story - and all of God's story - teaches us that there are "hidden treasures of darkness" as the prophet Isaiah so poetically proclaims. We may not experience months of a true polar night as those who live in the arctic do, but perhaps they can teach us how to recognize gifts of the many kinds of darkness we experience; seasonally yes, but also spiritually as well, for all those times when the next best step is not clear to us, when we have to trust senses other than our sight, when we have to grope about for answers to big questions... can we dare to find treasure in those moments? Is it possible God might meet us in the dark?

~ Pastor Ali Ferin

Life of the Congregation

Baptisms

- Maelyn Brandt, child of Chelsea and Alec Brandt, was baptized on Sunday, November 19
- Henry “Hank” Wilkerson, child of Elyssa and Aaron Wilkerson, was baptized on Sunday, November 26

Deaths

- Robert “Bob” Hansen passed away on Friday, November 10 at the age of 98 years. On December 16, starting at 10:00 a.m., a visitation, memorial Service, and luncheon will be held at St. Michael’s on December 16, starting at 10:00 a.m

Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. If you plan to do any business with the office or hope to meet with a particular staff member the week of Christmas/New Years, please make an appointment to ensure staff availability. Thank you!

December Worship & Education Schedule

December 3

- 8:45 a.m. Worship Livestreamed
- 10:00 a.m. Education Hour
- 11:00 a.m. Worship

December 10

- 8:45 a.m. Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Education Hour
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Livestreamed

December 17

- 8:45 a.m. Worship Livestreamed
- 10:00 a.m. Education Hour
- 11:00 a.m. Worship & Children’s Christmas Program

December 21 *Longest Night*

- 7:00 p.m. Worship
- Each year we honor the longest night of the year and the reality of grief and loss which accompany the Advent and Christmas seasons.*

December 24 Christmas Eve

- 10:00 a.m. Worship
Family Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
- 4:30 p.m. Worship
Traditional Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:30 p.m. Worship
Traditional Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion

December 31

- 10:00 a.m. Worship

The 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. worship schedule will resume on January 7th

Live-Streamed Services

Each Sunday, one of our services will be live-streamed. Subscribe to the St. Michael’s YouTube Channel to watch worship live on Sunday mornings if you are not able to come in person.

Scan this QR Code to go to the St. Michael’s Channel:

Watch your Friday Flyer for a copy of the Bulletin to download and follow along, as well as the link to the live service.

Streamed services will also be recorded and posted on Sunday evening on our website <https://www.stmichaelselca.com/> for viewing at your convenience



Sunday Education & Fellowship Hour

Join us at 10:00 a.m. between worship services for a time of fellowship and education.

Religion in Life

Sunday Morning Adult Education Forum

Religion in Life is an adult education forum on Sunday mornings during the program year (September-May) held as part of the 10:00-11:00 a.m. education hour. This forum brings in a variety of guest speakers and presenters to address topics such as scripture and theology, ethics and faith in the public sphere, and health and wellness.

December 3

Nurturing Hope: How Positive Experiences Make us Healthier

Ann Ellison, *Social Worker and Director of Community Services at Fairview Health System*

As we move into the Advent season (a season of hope), we join Ann Ellison who notes that hope is the most predictive indicator of well-being in a person's life in all the research done on trauma, illness, and resiliency. Today, Ann Ellison, director of Community Health Services for Fairview Health System will share how hope – the belief that the future will be better than today, and that we play a role in making that future possible – can be learned and measured. Join us for this inspiring conversation.



December 10

Of Give and Take and Peace On Earth

Bruce Peterson, *Attorney and retired judge*



Bruce Peterson was a 1978 graduate of Yale Law School, a special assistant in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and a partner in the Minneapolis law firm of Popham, Haik, Schnobrich and Kaufman. Then from 1999 until his retirement in May, 2019, he was a District Court Judge in Hennepin County. From 2006 to 2008 he was the presiding judge of Hennepin County Family Court. From 2008 to 2013 he initiated and presided over Co-Parent Court, offering supportive co-parenting services to low-income, unmarried parents establishing paternity. From 2013 to 2016 he presided over the Hennepin County Drug Court and specialized calendars for people who are homeless and women charged with prostitution. In his work he focused in on elements of human nature developed through natural selection that predispose people to cooperate and help each other. These include kin selection, group loyalty, and empathy. But most important for society is the reciprocity instinct, sometimes called reciprocal altruism. Our genetic blueprint inclines us to respond in kind to good treatment as well as to bad treatment. Understanding this basic instinct can help us fashion institutions, cultural practices, and behaviors that bring out the best in people instead of, as happens too often, stimulating our worst characteristics. Join Bruce in conversation and learning this Sunday.



December 17

St. Michael's Carols & Holiday Traditions

Karen Wilkerson, Tom Bartsch, and Chuck Hanson

Join Karen, Tom, and Chuck as they invite us into the season with songs and carols, holiday stories and remembrances, and a good amount of laughter.

Sunday, December 24

No Religion in Life.

There will be one morning worship service will be held at 10:00 a.m.

We Invite You to Participate in Worship



Volunteers are needed to serve as ushers, lectors, communion deacons, and fellowship hosts. These are great opportunities for folks of all ages - families are encouraged to sign up together! Head to www.stmichaelselca.com and click "Volunteer" to access signups.

Donate Worship Flowers

Did you know that you can donate toward the fresh flowers at the altar each week? We welcome you to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one with a dedication that will be printed in the bulletin. After services are done on Sunday, you are welcome to take the flowers home with you to enjoy. (We ask that you return the arrangement can so they can be reused!)

Use the Flower Signup on the bulletin board, call the church office, or sign up online with the above QR code or through the church website www.stmichaelselca.com and click "Volunteer" to access signups.

Music News

Children's Music

Rehearsals Wednesdays

Youth Bells 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Youth Choir 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to the children's music email list, please contact Cory Bock, Director of Children's Music

The Children's Choir sings on December 17, 11:00 a.m.



Adult Choir: St. Michael's Singers

Rehearsals Wednesdays

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

For more information please contact Karen Wilkerson, St. Michael's Singers Director.

Adult Bells: St. Michael's Chapel Ringers

Rehearsals Thursdays

6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

For more information please contact Charlie Preis, Chapel Ringers Director.

SOUND MIND PROJECT

A choir dedicated to supporting the
mental health of youth in our community.

Winter Concert

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 2:00PM

University Lutheran Church of Hope
601 13th Ave SE, Minneapolis



\$25 Suggested donation

A portion of proceeds collected during this
concert will benefit The Family Partnership.

KAUNEIMMAT JOULULAULUT

(BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS MUSIC)

December 9, 2023

2:00pm

**St. Michael's Lutheran Church
1660 County Road B West, Roseville, MN**

Celebrate beautiful Christmas music from
Finland in a sing-along of new carols and
traditional songs. Enjoy this beloved
Christmas tradition, celebrated in churches
across Finland, during December.

Guest Musicians: Sara Pajunen, Mark Sedio,
Osmo Vänskä

Joulutori

3:15pm-5pm

Fellowship Hall

Following the service, enjoy coffee and festive
Christmas treats and gifts for sale in the
marketplace.



Christmas Festival:

New Hope

Finding light in unexpected places

December 8th | 4:30pm

November 9th | 1:30pm and 8:00pm

Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Tickets at NLCA.com

20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

& SIMPLE GIFTS

WITH BILLY MCLAUGHLIN



St. Michael's Lutheran Church
1660 West County Rd B, Roseville, MN 55113
651-631-1510

**Friday, December 15, 2023
7:30pm**

Online in advance - \$40.00 plus fees
At St. Michael's in advance - \$40.00
At the door - \$50.00

General admission.
Doors open at 6:30pm



Tickets and details at
SIMPLEGIFTMUSIC.NET

Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

love out loud

Living in Community

As our Youth Choir blessed us with beautiful music on Reformation Sunday, I was in awe of the multitasking our students displayed. As one student finished their solo, another would signal to the younger students that the refrain would begin; as the refrain ended, another student would tap and remind a student that their solo was coming up. Throughout the whole song, they danced in a way that guided and led each other with so much care. What a great example of how we are to live simply, caring for one another and amply showing the love of God.

When we look at stories in the Bible, how many stories are taught by the examples of young people? David, the disciples, Miriam, Ruth, and the list goes on! Our society normalities that we {adults} have so much to teach our children, but I argue that it's the opposite. We must hold on to the love and innocence they carry. May it remind us of how we are to live in community.

~ Natalie Romero, CYF Director



Our 2023-2024 Sunday School theme is BOUNDLESS!



Our focus will be **“God’s love is immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.”** Students will explore this theme through music, crafts, games, conversations and many other activities.

Sunday School Registration is open all year. Friends are welcome to join us at any time. Feel free to use the QR Code here to register!



7th – 9th Grade Confirmation

Class for 7th-9th Graders is held on Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

December 6 Mentor Night, meet in Fellowship Hall at 6pm! *Note the time change!

December 13 Class, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION DECEMBER 20 & 27!



REMINDER!
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
December 24th
(worship at 10am or 4:30pm & 10:30pm)
December 31st
(worship at 10am)
Due to Christmas & New Years, we will not have Sunday school.
We will resume classes on January 7th.

2024 SERVICE TRIP

JUNE 22ND-JUNE 29TH

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT OF \$150 DUE

DECEMBER 1ST

TOTAL COST-

WITH FUNDRAISING: \$550

WITHOUT FUNDRAISING: \$700

FINAL COST WILL BE DUE APRIL 15TH

OPEN TO ALL CURRENT 8TH-12TH GRADERS!



REGISTER HERE!



December Activities

Advent Wreath Lighting

Individuals, partners or families are welcome to helping during worship to light our Advent wreath candles. Sign up using the QR Code



Cookie Baking & Decorating

Open to all 1st-5th Graders!
December 3rd- 12:30pm-2:30pm

Come bake and decorate cookies for St. Michael's Community Members.

Sign up using the
QR CODE

Sign up by November 26th



WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE & ELF MOVIE VIEWING PARTY



DECEMBER 3RD 5PM-8PM

Bring \$5 for dinner & a gift (not new) from home, wrapped, to exchange.

Gift Rules:

1. It cannot be a living thing OR once was a living thing.
2. No perishable food.
3. Must be wrapped fully.
4. If you are not sure if it's appropriate, ask a grown up.
5. Do not tell anyone what you brought!

**OPEN TO ALL 6TH-12TH GRADERS.
FRIENDS ARE WELCOME.
SIGN UP USING THE QR CODE.
SIGN UP DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 19TH.**



SAVE THE DATE!
**Sunday School
 Pageant**



DECEMBER
 17TH
 @ 11AM
 WORSHIP

REHEARSALS WILL BE DONE DURING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR WITH PREK-5TH GRADERS. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES VIA EMAIL. OLDER STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO HELP THAT MORNING. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT NATALIE AT YOUTH@STMICHAELSELCA.COM

Youth Bake Sale

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE TRIP

DECEMBER 17TH 10AM-NOON

WE WILL BE LOCATED IN CLASSROOM 1 AND OUTSIDE THE COURTYARD ROOM

CASH, CHECK OR CARD ACCEPTED

Children's Christmas Eve Worship

Interactive worship!
 Children's Choir & Music!

December 24th @10am
 Everyone is welcome!

Help us tell the Christmas story!

Upcoming Activities!

Drop off date
extended!

Help Support Local Nurses!

Sunday School will
assemble care packages for
distribution around the
Twin Cities.

If you would like to donate, please drop off
the items listed below by January 7th



****All items need to be
brand new:
hair ties
gum
sharpies
Chapstick
smooth writing gel pens**

2024 Youth Musical

for all Prek-8th grade students
(9th to 12th Grades will help with practices
and scenery)

Musical will be on February 11th at the
11am worship

Practices will be:
5:30pm-7:30pm

January 19th

January 26th

February 2nd

February 9th

Dinner will be provided

*Students are expected to attend all.. Please
communicate if there are any conflicts.

*Parents will be needed for one Friday to help with
dinner.

Registration deadline is January 7th.

Register using the QR Code
one time cost of \$10 per family to
help cover costs of musical supplies
& meals.



SUMMER CAMP

AT LUTHER CREST



**CURRENT 3RD GRADERS TO
HIGH SCHOOLERS**

Camp is Sunday to Friday

Cost: by Feb 14 - \$475

On or after Feb 15 - \$675

(free to high schoolers)

Registration Opens
November 1st!

Enjoy all that Luther Crest has to offer by making memories, worshipping
with friends, swimming in Lake Carlos, study the Bible, sing songs, do arts
& crafts, cook outside, and grow in faith!

GHR ID is: CTBSMLC24

Families provide transportation TO camp.

St. Michael's will provide transportation FROM camp.

Use this link to Register: <https://www.luthercrest.org/camp1.html>

Camp Information:

July 7-July 12, 2023

Luther Crest Bible Camp

8231 County Road 11 NE
Alexandria MN 56308

CONTACT NATALIE FOR MORE INFO

651.631.1510

youth@stmichaelselca.com



Social Ministry Activities

Social Ministry Calendar

- December 4: **Rezek House Meal**
Volunteers provide a meal for the staff and residents of Rezek House once a month
- December 10: **Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission**
Gather between 9:45-10:00 a.m. in the Serving Area & Kitchen
- December 12: **Keystone Mobile Food Distribution**
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in Circle Drive (west side of the church)
- December 13 & 27: **Quilting and Bandage Rolling**
9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall
- Daily: **Panera Bread Ministry**
Evening pick up at Rosedale Panera; Morning Bagging at St. Michael's kitchen
- Fridays: **Every Meal Food Distribution**
Two volunteers meet on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. at Parkview Center School and distribute meals. Placing bags in kids backpacks to provide extra food support over the weekends
**Note changes in December dates due to Winter Break: Fridays, December 8 & 15, Thursday, December 21*



Save the date! Loaves & Fishes in January

The “regular” date for serving at Loaves & Fishes would be January 15. Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend, the Loaves & Fishes organization will not be serving meals that day. St. Michael's will be serving the following week.

- January 22: Loaves & Fishes**
Preparing and serving a meal at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 2424 18th Ave. S, Minneapolis. Those preparing food gather between 1:45-2:00 p.m. Those serving the meals arrive at 4:30 p.m.

December's Featured Ministry

Loaves & Fishes

For around four decades St. Michael's has faithfully served meals with Loaves & Fishes. The members of the congregation and friends gather at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in south Minneapolis six times a year (generally on the third Monday of the month).

When the congregation serves one or two members of the congregation make a trek to Restaurant Depot and load up the carts (and their car) with all the items needed for the meal—chicken, potatoes, sour cream, butter, green beans, oranges, bread...and more!

Then a team of folks meets them at Holy Rosary and jumps into action. There is slicing and dicing, mashing and mixing, cooking and baking. This preparation team works from 1:45 pm until around 4:30 p.m.

The next team takes over serving. Historically the meals were served in the fellowship hall, but since COVID-19 the team has prepacked meals to be handed out near the front steps of the church.

While the meals are being prepared and handed out still other volunteers are washing pots and pans and cleaning up. It is truly a team effort!



For numerous years St. Michael's has served the same delicious meal of BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, orange slices and bread. It is a highlight among people receive the meal who are delighted to learn it's a "St. Michael's night."

If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, feel free to reach out to Dennis Skovsted or the church office.

Holiday Gift Drive

We will be collecting holiday gifts for a few families in our community who have children in Roseville Area Schools. Tags listing specific items will be on our Giving Christmas Tree. Gift cards are always welcomed, and will be listed on some tags. Please grab a tag! Gift items need to be returned to church by Tuesday, December 19th. Please keep the tag with the gift.

Our Giving Christmas Tree will be set up at church after Thanksgiving!

Thank you from the Social Ministry Team

If you are not able to select a gift tag, you can participate by going to the Amazon Wish List created for the families: just scan this QR Code.



Our Guatemala Partnership

The preparation for our trip in October 2024 has begun! The proper forms have been submitted, soon our travel dates will be set, and next we will be looking at airline tickets. Our travel dates will be in the time between October 10th and 20th of 2024, which covers the weekend of MEA.

Our partner congregation, Santa Cruz de la Esperanza in Cimient, Guatemala, has asked us if we would like to work alongside them in building pews for their church. We are excited to have been asked to work on a project together; it shows that our companionship has developed a level of trust and mutual respect. The simple benches we will build mean a lot to our friends in Cimient. They signify permanence, stability, and a prosperous future for their church community. We are honored that they have asked us to be a part of building their community.

We are looking for travelers interested in simple carpentry work, no need for advanced skills! It is a unique experience and we welcome your inquiries!

As an additional option for this trip, a group will be able to stay at the Lutheran Center in Guatemala City and participate in activities with the Elementary School, the MILAGRO Women's Center, and the local congregation. This is an excellent opportunity for people who wish to participate in our partnership but are hesitant about the trip up to the village.

Pre-Trip Informational meeting:

January 21, 2024, after the 11:00 a.m. worship service, will be our first information meeting. If you have questions about the trip, this is the meeting for you!

- How difficult is the travel?
- What is the food like?
- Where do we sleep?
- Do we have to worry about bugs?
- Do I have to speak Spanish?
- What do you do there?
- What is the weather like?
- Will we go to church?
- Can my youth travel with me?

Get all your questions answered! There is no commitment to participate in travel if you attend the informational meeting.

~Lisa Koland, Dave Yarusso, Sandra Eliason, Joan Felice, Natalie Romero, Pastor Brad, and Pastor Ali.

Education & Fellowship Activities

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Courtyard Room or Classroom 1 @ St. Michael's

The Thursday morning Bible Study meets weekly as we explore Scriptural texts for the coming Sunday, themes throughout the Bible, and ways texts intersect with our daily lives and experiences.

For four weeks (from the end of November up to Christmas) we will be exploring the Gospel of Mark, which is the primary gospel that is used for Lectionary Year B. This time together will serve as a primer for the year ahead.

Thursday, November 30 The Gospel of Mark

Thursday, December 7 The Gospel of Mark

Thursday, December 14 The Gospel of Mark

Thursday, December 21 The Gospel of Mark

Thursday, December 28 No class the week after Christmas

Faith in Daily Life

Faith in Daily Life is the opportunity to gather for meaningful conversations and book study over lunch.

The Faith in Daily Life gathering in December will be on Wednesday, December 13, at 12:00 p.m. This month we will be continuing with *The Gravity of Joy: A Story of Being Lost and Found*. The group will be reaching chapter 6 through the end of the book.

Bible and Brew

Thursday, December 7, 7:00 -9:00p.m.

Moving through the Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas season, St. Michael's Men's Bible and Brew will be meeting once during November and December.



As we look towards Christmas we will explore the coming of Jesus in the four gospels. What does each story tell us? Where do we see ourselves in these different versions?

Feel free to bring your own alcoholic or non-alcoholic "brew" and snacks to share.

Additionally, those attending are invited to bring a white elephant gift. This is something you have in your home that you wrap and bring along to gift to another! If there are any questions feel free to reference the "rules" outlined for our youth on what is appropriate as a white elephant gift (page 9).

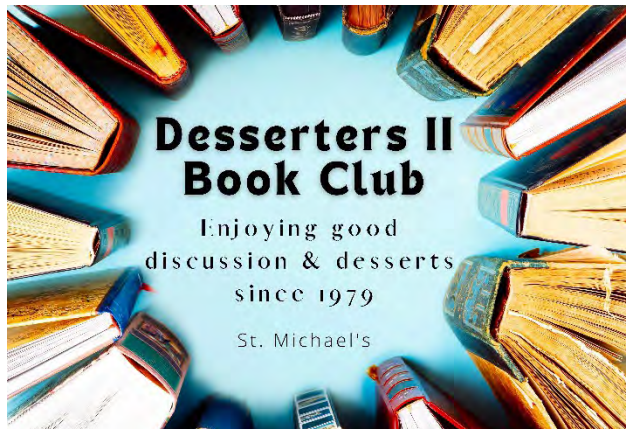


Desserters II: the St. Michael's Book Club

Enjoying good discussion and desserts since 1979!

There is NO book discussion scheduled for December. Looking ahead, there is a lot of good reading for 2024.

- Jan 23, 2024 *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich
A ghost in an independent bookstore in Minneapolis haunts the Ojibwe woman who works there.
- Feb 23, 2024 *Give a Girl a Knife* by Amy Thielen
This memoir moves from Minnesota to Manhattan and back to reclaim and redeem Midwestern cooking.
- Mar 26, 2024 *The Double Helix* by James Watson
The story of one of history's most significant scientific findings.
- Apr 23, 2024 *Fox Creek* by William Kent Krueger
Ojibwe culture is featured in this Cork O'Conner adventure in northeast Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- May 21*, 2024 *Hannah Coulter* by Wendell Berry
Hannah Coulter looks back on her childhood, her loves and loss, her children, and Kentucky farm life.



Meetings on the 4th Tuesdays, as listed above. *The May date is one week early.
The group meets in Classroom 1 at the church, with Zoom by request.

Quilting and Bandage Rolling

Quilting and bandage rolling will meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Quilts are made for High School graduation, the Veterans Home, and new babies. We also make tote bags for wheelchair and walker handles. Come join the fun on **December 13 & 27**, everyone is welcome!

Mahjongg

Are you looking for a group to play with or do you want to learn? Join the group that plays at 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month. Contact Sue Kuhn or Jane Doyle with any questions.



Yoga Devotion

The next Yoga Devotion session runs through December 18
The class starts at 6:30 p.m.

Cost \$77.00

Beginners are always welcome! If you would like to try a free class to learn more about yoga, please contact Mary Drache for the zoom link and join us.

Register & pay with this link:



Esther Circle

The Esther Circle is a community of women who gather for connection, conversation, and fun! The group meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

There is no circle gathering in December. Join us instead for the Women's Christmas Buffet on December 5!



The Women's Christmas Buffet

Tuesday, December 5

5:00 P.M.

**Travel Minnesota through
Traditions & Memories of
the Country Church**

**Pictures, stories, music, and memories
by Doug Ohman, *author, photographer***

TO VOLUNTEER OR REGISTER:
Contact Sandy Gibson
651-636-3899
kensan2k22@gmail.com

A Church at Work



Stewardship

Thank you to everyone who submitted their 2024 pledge information. We have already received about half of the pledge cards we expect to receive! Knowing our expected income is helpful as we plan for the upcoming year of ministry. *It's not too late to turn your pledge information to the office or call us with your estimated giving information!*

~In gratitude – The Stewardship Committee

End of Year Giving

Thank you for your generosity this year! If you plan to make an end-of-year gift, please call the church office to inform us of your intentions, particularly if you are transferring stock or making prepaid pledges for next year. Thank you!

Save the Date – Annual Meeting

The congregational annual meeting will be held on February 4 at 12:30 p.m. Join us for this celebration of ministry in the past year, and planning for the year ahead! Reports will be made available prior to the meeting.

Church Council Corner

The St. Michael's church council met on Tuesday, November 14, at 8:15 p.m.

This meeting was lighter on action items, but provided and opportunity for conversation.

Some items to note:

- **Correspondence and membership updates**—The council received updates from the church administrator on those removed from the rolls, those placed on inactive (or being followed up with). Additionally, the upcoming baptisms of Maelyn Brandt and Hank Wilkerson were noted as well as the recent death of long-time member Bob Hansen.
- **Finance Committee and Treasurer's reports**—Brian Cihacek, treasurer, reported on giving through October. The month saw significant giving as well as slightly higher expenses. The Finance Committee is monitoring how November and December come in as it looks at budgeting and planning for 2024.
- **The Council discussed items as we look toward the future**
 - **Budget:** The church council and the committees are currently in the process of reviewing and proposing budgets for 2024. Council will receive a first draft prior to the December meeting.
 - **Worship:** The Worship & Music Committee will be reviewing worship services. Do we continue with two worship services in fall 2024? Or, with more people worshipping online, traveling, etc, do we consider moving to one service in the coming year? If we do continue with two services are there ways that the two are further differentiated? The Worship & Music Committee will be hosting conversation later this spring.
 - **Host Church possibility:** The Saint Paul Area Synod has invited the congregation to consider whether we would be a host congregation for an ethnic-specific ministry. The council began discussing what this would entail, any changes/challenges it would pose, what excitement it would hold, and how it aligns with our mission and values.

The Congregation's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12.

2023 Budget Overview and Financial Update

	October Actual	October Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income	\$79,499	\$60,646	\$668,632	\$644,689	\$868,882*
Expenses	\$82,578	\$66,794	\$691,070	\$730,777	\$868,882
Net Balance	\$-3,080	\$-6,145	\$-22,438	\$-86,088	\$0

*At the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2023, the congregation approved use of Reserve Funds to balance the budget, if needed at the end of the year. This is included in the Annual Approved budget of \$868,882.

Tree Removal

In November, both St. Michael's and the City of Roseville, removed many Ash trees from the property. These trees were infected with Emerald Ash Borer and treatments were no longer effective. Several had lost large limbs this past year due to the infestation, posing a risk to the Northern Voices students, users of the Courtyard, and pedestrians. Next year, watch for plans for a Peace Garden in the Courtyard!



Thank you to the Property Team for a BUSY YEAR with projects around St. Michael's to maintain and improve the grounds and building.

Worship Leaders and Volunteers Needed

The program year has started and there are still a wide variety of OPEN Worship Leader spots! Check SignUp Genius for opportunities to volunteer for: **Ushers, Lectors, Communion Deacons, Worship Flowers, and Fellowship Hosts.**

Visit Sign-up Genius to see the opportunities awaiting you. The quickest way to get there is to visit St. Michael's website: www.stmichaelselca.com and click on the Volunteer Sign-up icon



Online Giving & Mobile Giving



Did you know that you can pay for an event or set up a recurring automatic gift to support the work of St. Michael's? Authorization forms are available from the church office or follow this link:

<https://www.stmichaelselca.com/givenow.html>

Vanco also has a mobile App as another method to set up a payment or a recurring automatic gift to support the work of St. Michael's. Download the Vanco Mobile App from the App Store and search for "St. Michael's Lutheran Church".

The above QR code takes you to our Donate Now page on our website.

St. Michael's is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation



St. Michael's Lutheran Church lives out God's grace and love for all people. Faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we welcome those who have been part of church communities, those who have no previous church experience, and those who have felt excluded by the Church because of their race or ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental capabilities, financial resources, or family circumstances. In this witness we seek reconciliation, healing, and wholeness. As a diverse people we are then empowered by the Holy Spirit to live and work together for God's promised day of justice, peace, and mercy.

Land Acknowledgement

The ELCA has published "A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People," in which the church confesses its sins toward Indigenous peoples and lists the commitments it will begin working toward as it responds to its original "Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery" from 2016.



St. Michael's Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homeland of the Dakota people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Not getting your *Friday Flyer*?

Are you having a problem with our weekly e-newsletter, the *Friday Flyer* not showing up in your primary inbox? First check your other inbox folders—it often shows up in a spot called the *Promotions* folder. Or it could be in your *Spam* folder. If a search of those yields nothing, then contact Lisa Koland at office@stmichaelselca.com, and we'll find a way to make sure the newsletter gets to you!

Making the *Messenger Green*

If you prefer to read your upcoming issues of St. Michael's monthly *Messenger* newsletter in your email or on our church website instead of having a paper copy mailed to you, please notify the church office.

Got something for the January *Messenger*?

The *Messenger* submission deadline is Friday, December 15, 2023.





St Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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St. Michael's Staff Directory

St. Michael's Lutheran

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Pianist

Karen Wilkerson

Adult Choir Director

Charles Preis

Adult Bell Choir Director

Cory Bock

Youth Choir Director
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Hannah & Carrie Bock

Nursery Attendants

Fernando Garcia

Custodian

Grace Berndt & Marissa Breneman

Weekend Custodians