



St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Messenger

December 2017

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From the Pastor's Desk:

Making Room

For the last few months my husband and I have been making room in our home, budget, and dreams for a child that will soon make an arrival into the world. We have been busy preparing for his birth, hoping that the room we create for a crib, children's books, and diapers will be enough to make us feel ready for the vocation of parenthood. (However, parents are quick to remind me, it is not possible to be fully ready for what lies ahead!) Nevertheless, we wait. And to make the wait less daunting, we make lists, we make daycare arrangements, we make bookshelves; we make room. We have no idea what to expect other than our lives being utterly transformed by the early cries of this new creation.

The practice of making room for a child has led me to wonder... what else might I make room for in this season of life? Could I be making room in my home and heart for gratitude? Curiosity? Service? Rest? This question is pregnant with possibility,

and so I'd like to propose it before you... In this season of life, what do you need to make room for?

Currently, our culture is pressuring us to make room for the hubbub of the holiday season, and perhaps that is exactly what you need right now - a tinsel laced distraction from the brokenness of this world. But as people of faith, while we deck the halls with fa-lalas, we remember the birth story of Christ who was born into brokenness, poverty, and a crushing government. And so a distraction might not be what we need to make room for, but the hope of Christ is what we could be preparing for. For even in times like this, Christ is present, born into our midst.

Soon, the church will be in the season of Advent, a time of waiting and expectation for the Divine to be born into the world yet again. Whether we make room or not, the promise of Christmas is that God is



with us. And yet, the practice of making room for Christ matters; it helps us to recognize Divine presence in the world.

I leave you with a favorite Advent poem, written by Kelly Ann Hall titled, *Expecting Me?* May it nourish you in this advent season and cause you to wonder: in this season of life, what do you need to make room for?

"Expecting me?"
I AM making my Way,
leaving everything I've
known for solidarity,
to be with you. Can
you make room?

Continued on page two

From the Pastor's Desk—

continued from page one

Like Mary, open your womb;
Give me refuge, make living
space within.
I AM growing a body,
one progressive mind,
one beating heart for
creation-kind,
two arms to carry my love,
shoulders to bear it,
legs that will walk me
to the end.

It's believed,
that it takes a divine act
an angelic messenger,
or miracle
an unwinding string
of unbelievable-yet-real
circumstances to convince
and inspire real world change.

True, and yet,
willing souls
also make a difference.
People courageous enough
to resist death-dealing, starve
fear, and consecrate space
for holiness.

Life begetting Life:
new breath, fresh eyes—hope!
This kind of resistance
calls you with me
to offer dignity,
house the refugee,
grace the infringed, the exiled,
the homeless — the stranger
to become the inn keeper
allowing just one more family,
without reservation,
his last bit of room,
just enough
for me.

Light, embodied.
Grow with me, expand.
Breathe deep, welcome,
make room
there is more than enough!
I AM, after all,
for every last one of you.
Lead one another by my Way,
leaving everything you've
known for solidarity,
to be with me.

I AM expecting you.
Make room,
there is more than enough.

~ Pastor Ali

*In this
season of life,
what do you
need to make
room for?*

Holiday Worship Schedule

**The Longest Night:
Service of Healing & Hope**
Thursday, December 21
7:00 p.m.



Christmas Eve Worship
December 24th

10:00 a.m.—
Family Christmas Eve
Worship

4:30 p.m.—
Christmas Eve Worship
with Holy Communion

10:30 p.m.—
Christmas Eve Worship
with Holy Communion

December 31st

10:00 a.m.—
Worship
with Holy Communion

*Note: No education Hour
December 17, 24 or 31*

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed:

Monday, December 25

Friday, December 29

Monday, January 1, 2018

There will be limited office hours:
December 26-28.
Please call ahead.

Religion in Life - Sundays 10:00–10:55 a.m.

Join us for the following conversations:

Sunday, December 3

The Gospel of Mark

The Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis, PhD

Karoline Lewis serves as Associate Professor of Biblical Preaching and the Marbury E. Anderson Chair of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary. With extensive work in the field of New Testament, Karoline will invite us into this lectionary year and what we might find and experience as we read through the Gospel of Mark in worship. We are delighted to welcome Karoline to St. Michael's today.

Sunday, December 10

The Refugee Family

Lutheran Social Services

LSS Refugee Services offers hope and a helping hand to refugees as they start anew in Minnesota. Through LSS's different services, and with the help of many volunteers and community members, LSS Refugee Services strives to address the needs of all refugees and walk beside them as they start their new lives in the United States. The organization is an affiliate of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS).

LSS Refugee Services began operating in the mid-1970's in response to the crisis occurring in Southeast Asia. Refugees started to arrive in Minnesota from countries such as Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos. **During the 1980's**, LSS Refugee Services continued to resettle refugees from Asia, as well as countries such as Ethiopia. **During the 1990's** and into the twenty-first century, conflicts in East and West Africa and the changing political situations in Eastern Europe brought refugees from these regions into Minnesota.

As it has in the past, LSS Refugee Services continues to play an instrumental role in assisting refugees from around the world start their new lives in Minnesota. As we live in these changing times we have the opportunity to engage in the conversation and work being carried out by LSS in Minnesota.

Sunday, December 17

No Religion in Life Programming

Sunday, December 24

No Religion in Life Programming

Sunday, December 31

No Religion in Life Programming

Faith in Daily Life

Throughout the month of December we will have the regular three gatherings of Faith in Daily Life.

December 6–12:00 p.m.: Chianti Grill in Roseville (Roseville Group)

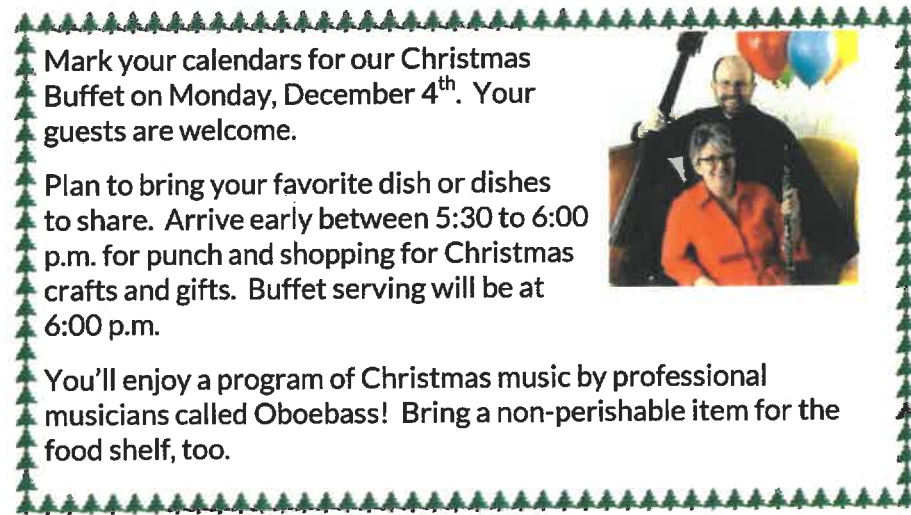
December 13–12:00 p.m.: Thrivent Lunch Room in Minneapolis (Minneapolis Group)

December 20–12:00 p.m.: The Grateful Table in Roseville (St. Paul Group)

If people are around and interested in joining the conversation to learn more about Faith in Daily Life or happen to have a little extra time and are interested in the topic, feel free to jump in. We have been reading *The Great Emergence* by Phyllis Tickle. The article listed below provides insight into the book and is a great way for people who perhaps have not read the whole book to join in the conversation.

<http://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3105&context=auss>

Musical Christmas Buffet



Mark your calendars for our Christmas Buffet on Monday, December 4th. Your guests are welcome.

Plan to bring your favorite dish or dishes to share. Arrive early between 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. for punch and shopping for Christmas crafts and gifts. Buffet serving will be at 6:00 p.m.

You'll enjoy a program of Christmas music by professional musicians called Oboebass! Bring a non-perishable item for the food shelf, too.

Purchase Fair Trade Gifts at Church!

Stop by the Courtyard Room to check out our new selection of fair trade products! Proceeds from the sales support St. Michael's partner congregation in Guatemala.

The Longest Night: Service of Healing and Hope

December 21st 7:00pm

The Longest Night is a service of scripture, stories, special music, silent reflection, and healing prayer. It's a time to recognize that Christmas can be a bittersweet time of the year.

The constant refrain we hear about getting together with family, reminds many people of what and who they have lost, or what they never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the weariness of ill health, the loneliness of grief, the pain of isolation- all these can make us feel very much alone in the midst of the festive season.

We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. We need to know God's presence during this season.

So on the longest night of the year, we invite you to experience a meditative worship service that takes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Church Council Potluck



The church council will gather for their annual potluck on December 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Courtyard Room.

Bring your spouse/partner and a snack, salad, or appetizer to share!

Simple Gifts Concert

The "Simple Gifts" Billy McLaughlin concert will be at St. Michael's on Sunday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are available at the church office. Purchase tickets in advance: \$25 adult, \$15 student. Ticket prices at the door are \$30 adult, \$20 student. Don't miss hearing the St. Michael's Singers choir sing alongside Simple Gifts!

Stewardship 2018



Thank you for submitting your Time & Talent forms and pledge cards to the church office! If you still have yours at home—we'd love to have it turned in as soon as possible.

A friendly reminder: End of year gifts should be made to St. Michael's by December 31st! Every envelope postmarked by Saturday, December 30th, or earlier will be processed as a 2017 donation (unless you've indicated that you want it to be for your 2018 pledge).

Starting in December, you will be receiving your offering envelopes on a quarterly basis. They will be mailed directly to your home! If you use automated online giving or give through means other than envelopes, we will have a packet of "special offering" envelopes for holidays available for you

Life of the Congregation

On November 12th we welcomed the following new members to our congregation:

Colleen & Ron Dishneau
 Lois & Norm Ecklund
 Ginger Fairchild
 and daughter, Teagan
 Audrey & John Fairchild
 Carolyn & Brian Ingvaldstad,
 and sons, Victor and Grant
 Kate & Jeremy Stahl
 and children, Natalia and Carter
 Jon Strupp



Bazaar News

Thank you to everyone who participated in and attended this year's fun-filled and successful Hometown Bazaar. The Bazaar raised \$6,080 which will be used for both a church project and an outreach to the larger community. Look for further updates in upcoming *Messengers*.

The winner of the beautiful handmade quilt was Cameron Wilcox. The popcorn prize in the lunch ticket raffle was won by Jack Sperbeck.

Gift Planning

On November 12 at our Religion in Life class, Becky Palmgren, Regional Gift Planner of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Area for the ELCA, spoke on decisions for end of life. Becky talked about wills, different types of trusts, durable power of attorneys, distribution of assets and questions that may help in conversations with family about end of life. Becky will provide help to our members at no charge with no fees or commissions. You can call her to ask questions or to set up a time to have a conversation with her about how to start making decisions of how to bless your family and ministry with current or future gifts after your death. If you would like to meet with Becky at St. Michael's, please call or come into the office to get on the sign-up sheet. If that does not work she will come to your home if you call her to schedule ahead.

Rebecca (Becky) Palmgren, Regional Gift Planner
 Office [763-757-9302](tel:763-757-9302) Cell [763-464-3584](tel:763-464-3584)

rebecca.palmgren@elca.org

Social Ministry

November 26– December 17	Christmas Gift Collection
December 4 th	Rezek House Meal
December 10 th	Sandwich Making and Delivery
December 11 th	Global Health Ministries
December 12 th	Mobile Food Shelf Distribution
December 13 th & 27 th	Quilting and Bandage Rolling
Weekly	Panera Bread Pick Up and Delivery

Christmas Gift Collection

Celebrate the holiday season by caring for your neighbors in need.

Grab a gift tag from the Social Ministry Christmas display and bring items back to church by December 17.

Gifts will go to families in our community. Thank you for your generosity!

Mobile Food Shelf Volunteers Needed

The second Tuesday of each month from 3:00—5:00 p.m., St. Michael's is a site for the Keystone Mobile Food Shelf. The Mobile Food Shelf makes the Keystone Food Shelf more accessible to our neighbors in need. Volunteers are needed to welcome clients and help the Keystone staff on the food truck.

If you would like to volunteer with the Mobile Food Shelf while it's at St. Michael's, call the church office or head to the Sign-Up Genius site to learn more!

<http://www.stmichaelselca.com/volunteer-opportunities.shtml>

Thank You!

Thank you to Mary Christiansen for her ministry! Mary served as our congregation's financial secretary for over 40 years! Her dedication and skill has been a gift to the congregation and so we lift our prayers of gratitude for all of her hard work!

Thank you, Mary!



Thanks to all St. Michael's members who participated in the recent winter clothing drive. The response was overwhelming! The bin in the narthex was overflowing with outerwear and was emptied three times. Many students in Roseville Area Schools will benefit from your generosity.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul, our members and the congregations we serve, I extend sincere thanks for your congregation's contribution of \$1,500.00 to the Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul. Our hearts are heavy as we witness more and more people coming to us for help. And then we are encouraged when congregations like yours step up to help meet the increasing needs.

We remain humbled by all there is to do and incredibly grateful for your financial support of these efforts.

Sincerely,
Randi Ilyse Roth, Executive Director

Come to the Manger **A Service of Lessons and Carols**

by Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo

Sunday, December 24, 2017

10:00 a.m.



All students in grades 1-8 are invited to be part of this year's special service of lessons and carols on December 24 (4th Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve). In addition to joining the Celebration Singers, Spirit Choir and Youth Bells, students are needed to help lead the service as readers.

It's not too late to join us as we prepare to lead this service.

Students interested in singing with the choirs are asked to attend regular choir rehearsals during the month of December on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. A "dress rehearsal" will take place on Wednesday, December 20.

If your child is interested in reading, or if you have any other questions, please contact Cory Bock, Director of Children's Music (cory@stmichaelselca.com).

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services

Join St. Michael's 1st-5th graders on a Christmas journey around the world. In *Around the World in Search of the Meaning of Christmas* by Pastor Brad Froslee, children hear the story of the birth of Jesus while learning some of the traditions used to celebrate Christmas around the world.



Between services, families and friends are invited to the Fellowship Hall for cookies and treats. A free-will offering will be collected for World Vision.

The dress rehearsal for the Christmas Program is scheduled for Saturday, December 16 from 8:30–10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

For more information, or if you have further questions, please contact Cory Bock, Director of Children's Music (cory@stmichaelselca.com).

Old Spaghetti Factory: Senior High Youth Dinner

Sunday, December 3rd, 5:00 p.m.

On Sunday, December 3, the Senior High Youth will enjoy a dinner out on the town at the Old Spaghetti Factory at 233 Park Avenue in Minneapolis. This is a great opportunity to be together for food, fun, and conversation. We will also be revealing the location of the 2018 Summer Mission Trip.

Parents/Guardians are asked to drop off the youth at the Old Spaghetti Factory by 5:00 p.m. with pick-up at approximately 6:30 p.m. There will be limited carpooling available from St. Michael's. Please let Pastor Ali or Pastor Brad know if a ride is needed.

Sr. High Youth Bake Sale!

Sunday, December 17th following the 8:45 service in the narthex!

All youth that are interested in attending the summer mission trip should participate in this fundraiser but **ALL** youth are invited to be involved!

Please bring 4 dozen baked goods nicely wrapped on paper plates. We will price the goods at the church. Connect with Brian Thompson with questions.

6th–8th Grade Events:

January 27-28, 2018

Slumber Party: 6th-8th Grade Youth Leadership

Youth leaders are needed for the 3rd–5th grade slumber party. Youth leaders will help lead games, snacks, and service projects.

For more information on becoming a youth leader for the slumber party, contact Pastor Ali or sign up on the Youth bulletin board!

Confirmation Updates

December 3 rd	Confirmation Class	10:00 a.m.	Classroom I
December 6 th	Confirmation Mentor Night	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
December 10 th	Confirmation Class	10:00 a.m.	Classroom I
December 17 th	Confirmation Class	10:00 a.m.	Classroom I
December 24 th	NO CONFIRMATION CLASS		
December 31 st	NO CONFIRMATION CLASS		
January 7 th	Confirmation Class	10:00 a.m.	Classroom I

3rd–5th Grade Events

December 3rd

Christmas Cookie Spectacular!

Youth are invited for an afternoon of making cookies for neighbors and home-bound members of the congregation! Together we will remember that the reason for the season isn't getting presents...it's about sharing the love of God!



This event is FREE! Join us from 12:30–3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



January 27th-28th

Pack your sleeping bag and get ready for a night of fun! 3rd–5th graders will spend the night at church playing games, completing a service project, doing crafts, watching movies...and then the next morning we will worship at the 8:45 a.m. service in our pajamas!

Youth will be encouraged to attend Sunday School after worship.

Reminder:

There will be no Sunday School
December 17 **
December 24
or
December 31

7:00 p.m. Saturday–10:00 a.m. Sunday
Fellowship Hall
Cost: \$5.00 per person
Sign up will be on the youth bulletin board.

** Everyone is invited to come to the celebration between services on December 17 following the Sunday School Christmas Program.

St. Michael's Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Following the 11:00 a.m. worship service

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday, January 28, 2018, following the second worship service. A light lunch will be provided, and there will be childcare available.

Items on the agenda for this year's meeting include:

- ⇒ Voting on the revised Constitution and Bylaws. The Constitution Committee has been working for over a year and a half to update St. Michael's Constitution to reflect the Model Constitution of the ELCA and to update the Bylaws to reflect the ministry and work of the congregation.
- ⇒ Voting on the budget for the 2018 calendar year
- ⇒ Receiving updates from the Strategic Planning Team and Council
- ⇒ Receiving the 2017 Program Report, Financial Report, and Membership Report
- ⇒ Electing members to serve on Church Council and voting members for Synod Assembly

The Constitution and Bylaws will be made available on the church website as a PDF document and hard copies will be available on the counter near the Courtyard Room. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the church office, the pastors, or Dave Yarusso (Church Secretary and point person for the Constitution Committee.)

Proposed Holden Village Trip Follow-Up

A group from St. Michael's is planning a trip to Holden Village (a Lutheran Ecumenical Retreat Center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State) at the end of July & beginning of August 2018. Pastor Brad has information (and a short PDF document presentation) available to those who would still like to learn more or consider going.



Recently we were made aware that if we register as a group by the end of December, we can receive the 2017 rates (a savings of approximately \$30-\$40 per person). In order to take advantage of this rate, we will be reaching out to those who are considering going early in December and provide a firmer understanding of dates and transportation. We will then have a follow-up meeting in January to solidify plans.

St. Michael's Lutheran

651-631-1510

www.stmichaelsca.org

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Brad Froslee	<i>Pastor</i>
Ali Ferin	<i>Pastor</i>
Mary Gail Hadley	<i>Office Administrator</i>
Brian Thompson	<i>Youth Worker</i>
Thomas Bartsch	<i>Organist</i>
Jill Schendel	<i>Pianist</i>
Karen Wilkerson	<i>Adult Choir Director</i>
Charles Preis	<i>Adult Bell Choir Director</i>
Cory Bock	<i>Youth Choir Director</i>
Molly Raben	<i>Youth Choir Accompanist</i>
Fernando Garcia	<i>Custodian</i>

brad@stmichaelsca.com
ali@stmichaelsca.com
office@stmichaelsca.com

Christmas Poinsettias

As part of our Christmas celebration at St. Michael's, we will have red poinsettias around the altar. We invite our members and friends to donate a plant as a personal gift or as a memorial.



The cost is \$10 per plant. Please fill out the form below and bring it with your check to the church office, or send an e-mail to office@stmichaelsca.com (and mail us your check). Make check payable to St. Michael's and write "Poinsettia" on memo line.

Closing date for orders is Sunday, December 10

Plants may be taken home by donors following the 10:30 pm service on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Poinsettias Order Form

Name _____

Number of plants at \$10.00 each _____

Amount of money enclosed _____

If given as a memorial, in memory of (please print):
