



St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Messenger

January 2018

From the Pastor's Desk:

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Adult Ministries	3
Congregational Life	4
Save the Dates	5
Social Ministries	6
Annual Meeting	6
Children & Youth Ministries	5, 7-8
Thank you for your Generosity!	9-10
Holden Village Trip	11
January Calendar	insert

Quite the Journey

Just over a year ago the community at St. Michael's extended a call for me to come among you and serve as one of your pastors. This month marks the one-year anniversary of when I began. Over the course of the year we have embarked on a journey to get to know one another better, to learn about each other and from each other, to celebrate rich and wonderful St. Michael's traditions, to try some new things (many successful...a few that were maybe good "learning experiences"). We are on the road together looking to where and how God is being revealed in our midst and in the world.

The Gospel of Matthew is the only gospel that mentions the magi arriving at the nativity of Jesus. This element in the story has led to conjecture about how many magi were there (many say three—since three gifts are named); where they came from (Babylonia, Syria, India, China, Yemen, a combination of these...or somewhere else); and who they really were (astrologers, sorcerers, kings).

There has also been great conversation about their names. In Western Christianity they are often called Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar; the Syrian Christian church gives them the names Larvandad, Gushnasaph, and Hormisdas; Ethiopian Christianity calls them Hor, Karsudan, and Basanater; and the Armenian church uses still other names, Kagpha, Badadakharida, and Badadilma. Several Bible historians have tried to name and place them and Chuck Missler cites a tradition that identifies them as Balthasar of Arabia, Melchior of Persia, and Gasper of India.

The reality is we will likely never know the true names or origins of these desert wanderers. Yet, there is something intriguing about this part of the story. These magi instill in us a sense of wonder, of openness to seeing the signs around us and asking questions, of interactions with powerful people, and of an arrival at a place of promise after a long journey.



At the beginning of this new calendar year, these folks of questionable number, name, and location, offer us an invitation to journey with them...to come and see God made real among us. We are reminded that our star-gazing, dreaming, questioning, and journeys open the doors to "God-moments." That's a great witness! And on January 7 we will kick-off our worship service as we hear about and journey with these star-gazers and allow ourselves to follow "over the hills and everywhere."

Continued on page two

From the Pastor's Desk—

continued from page one

As we move into 2018 we take time to reflect on the journey of 2017—dreams taking root as we have moved through transition, started a congregational visioning plan with opportunities for engagement, spent time talking about values that are important to us; questions being explored in adult education, worship, and seeking ways to serve the larger community; the joyous and painful steps of this past year—joy in welcoming babies into our midst, pain in saying good-bye to dear friends, spouses, and children, uncertainty in making life transitions (moves, job changes). Yet in all things we have opened ourselves to seeing God made real among us.

Now, with the star beckoning, we journey again into a new calendar year and the promise that God will be revealed among us again new ways. No matter who we are, where we have come from, or what road has brought us to this day, we are invited again into an incredible journey. And we are reminded that we do not journey alone. We come as a group of indeterminable number, perhaps by winding roads, looking to stars and sign-posts along the way, seeking promises yet to be revealed.

We come to the manger and we look to the hope and the wonder in Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-Us. We come searching out and seeing again God's promise made real.

*We are reminded
that our star-gazing,
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With one year completed, I am looking forward to this coming year. It is a time in which I hope to get to know many more of you even better, and to spend time with others whom I have not gotten to know as well. I am looking forward to hearing more of your dreams, visions, and the ways that you see God's life being born among us today...and in the days and years ahead.

For the journey that has been...and the journey yet to unfold...blessings!

~ Pastor Brad

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed:

Monday, January 1, 2018

**St. Michael's
Lutheran
Church
Annual
Meeting
will be held
on Sunday,
January 28,
2018
following the
11:00 a.m.
worship service
in the
Fellowship Hall.**

**See pages 5, 6 & 7
for further information.**

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

Join us for the following conversations:

Sunday, January 7

Jesus, Justice and the Prophets

The Rev. Dr. Mark Throntveit, PhD

Sunday, January 14

Global Health Ministries

*The Rev. Doug Cox, Executive Director
Global Health Ministries*

Faith in Daily Life

Faith in Daily Life will meet in the New Year:

Wednesday, January 3—noon

(Chianti Grill—Roseville)

Wednesday, January 10 - noon

(Thrivent Lunch Room –Minneapolis)

Wednesday, January 17—noon

(Grateful Table-St. Paul)

We will begin reading *Pre-Post-Racial America* by Sandhya Rani Jha. All are welcome.

Women's Circles

On January 3rd both Sarah and Elizabeth Circles will meet at 1:00 pm in the Courtyard Room for a time of fellowship and connection. Circles will resume their normal schedules in February.

Desserters II Book Club

Desserters II will meet on January 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Room to discuss *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow. Janet Hanafin and Lynn and Dick Nysse will host.

Yoga Devotion

Consider Yoga Devotion as a healthy healing activity you can do for yourself in the New Year! Our next eight-week session begins Monday, January 8 and runs through February 26. The one-hour class starts at 6:30 p.m. Beginners are always welcome. Bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing. The cost is \$64 and can be paid at the first class. Make checks payable to St. Michael's with Yoga Devotion on the memo line. Questions? Contact Kathy at kathynockleby@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 21

Talking about Alzheimer's and Dementia

Chris Rosenthal, LISW, MSW, Director of Senior Services at Jewish Family Services in St. Paul

Sunday, January 28

Raising Children in Faith:

Care, Compassion, and Justice

The Rev. Dr. Justin Lind-Ayres, DMin, Pastor at Luther Seminary and Associate Pastor at Augsburg College

Monday Morning Ministries

January 8, 7:00 a.m.

Monday Morning Ministries will meet on Monday, January 8, at 7:00 a.m. in the Fellowship hall serving area. The group meets and discusses faith and current events. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Brad.

St. Michael's Game Night & Baby Shower

with Pastor Ali and Ben

Sunday, January 21, 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Sunday evening, January 21, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. the Nurturing Relationships Committee is hosting a congregational potluck and game night. A highlight of the evening will be a time to celebrate with Pastor Ali and Ben as they prepare to welcome their little one.

All are invited to come for a time of fun and games! Feel free to bring a dish to share. We will be putting together a congregational "basket" for the Ferin family. You can contribute by bringing any of the following: a favorite children's book, diapers and onesies (of various sizes), Aquaphor, Desitin, baby shampoo and wash, bibs, sippy cups, baby spoons, and other items that will help Pastor Ali and Ben welcome baby.

Life of the Congregation

A memorial service was held for St. Michael's members Keith and Louise Johnson on December 16th. Please keep their family and friends in your prayers as they continue to grieve.

Mary Gail Hadley's mother, Doris Hadley, passed away on December 17 in Rochester, MN, following a stroke. The family will have a private service at a later date.

A Note from Pastor Ali: What to Expect When Your Pastor is Expecting

All throughout my pregnancy, my husband and I have been reading many books and articles to prepare us for birth and parenting. One of the books we've turned to for advice has been *What to Expect When You're Expecting*. In the spirit of this popular book, I created a "pastors addition" of what to expect while I am on leave!

What is parental leave? When will it start?

Parental leave is an important time for us to be with the baby. Assuming baby and I are healthy, I will be taking a 12-week parental leave. This means I will be taking about 3 months on leave from the vocation of pastoring at St. Michael's. During my leave, I will not be working. I don't anticipate replying to work calls or e-mails. I am hoping to work as late into my pregnancy as I can so that my leave will be with the baby. I'm due the end of February. Assuming he comes on schedule, I'll be returning the end of May.

Will Pastor Brad be serving St. Michael's alone during Pastor Ali's leave?

St. Michael's is blessed with a number of gifted leaders who are able to step in to help preach and teach during my leave. Additionally, the personnel committee approved a part time interim to serve alongside Pastor Brad while I am out of office. Pastor Jay Carlson will be working around 12 hours a week, beginning in March. He will be preaching, teaching, and providing on-call pastoral care. Because of the short term, part-time nature of his role, Pastor Jay was appointed with help from the Saint Paul Area Synod rather than setting up a congregational call committee. Pastor Jay previously served as the Senior Pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, and will bring many gifts to St. Michael's. I'm excited for you to meet him, and for him to experience the vibrant ministry of our faith community!

So we won't see the pastor or baby during her parental leave?

My husband and I love St. Michael's and are excited to raise our family in such a supportive and loving community. We may choose to participate in aspects of congregational life during leave, but please honor our time as a new family by allowing us to determine our own involvement.

What will it be like when Pastor Ali returns?

When I return from leave, I will resume my normal role as associate pastor of St. Michael's. I may bring the baby to work in those first days as we both adjust to a new schedule. I anticipate going to summer camp with the youth in July, and my family plans to go to Holden Village with our church group later in summer.

I am sure more questions will arise during my leave. The personnel committee and Pastor Brad are available to discuss any questions you might have. I cannot express how grateful we are to have received such love and support during this time! Thank you for your prayers and for the privilege to serve as your pastor.

Children's Music News

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that the holidays are over, and we are now beginning 2018. The past year was filled with a lot of music making and wonderful worship experiences.



As always, our spring musical was a hit. *In the Image*, by Mark Burrows told the story of creation and how we are all created in the image of God. In addition to performing the musical, the choirs had the opportunity to lead our worship services.

In December, our children and youth had two more opportunities to share their talents. The Sunday School Christmas Program (which was written by Pastor Brad), was performed at two services. Thank you to all the students who were involved. Through your words and music, we heard the true meaning of Christmas. Thanks to all who helped prepare for the program; Brian Thompson, Tara Rogness, Dawn Westin as well as Sunday School Shepherds.

The Celebration Singers, Spirit Choir and Youth Bells also had the opportunity to lead worship on December 24 with *Come to the Manger*, a service of lessons and carols. This was a beautiful way to transition from Advent to Christmas.

In addition to the choirs, bells and preschool/kindergarten students participating in services throughout the year, several of our children and youth shared their musical talents with us by playing music during services for prelude, postlude and during the offering. Thank you to all who have participated in some way to enhance our worship with music. Thank you to the parents as well. Your support and encouragement help keep us singing and ringing!

So, what lies ahead for 2018? We will continue to provide music and leadership for worship services. Soon we will begin work on this year's spring musical. Watch for details soon about when rehearsals start. If your child has not yet come to sing or ring, now is the time to join us. For more information, please contact Cory Bock, Director of Children's Music at cory@stmichaelselca.com.

Save the Date!

Lent: God's Story...Our Stories

Ash Wednesday, February 14

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Soup Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Worship service
6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
7:00 p.m.	Worship Service

Wednesdays in Lent: February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21

6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
7:00 p.m.	Holden Evening Prayer

Maundy Thursday, March 29

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Worship Service
7:00 p.m.	Worship Service

Good Friday, March 30

7:00 p.m.	Worship Service
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February 11th 2 pm to 4 pm, Fellowship Hall

Don't miss this afternoon of celebration and connection! All are welcome as we explore our congregation's Vision, Mission, and Values. There will be food and music as you experience different service, learning, and fellowship activities available at St. Michael's! Join us!

Are you a baker for fellow sweets-lover? We are looking for folks to provide cookies or bars for the Lenten Soup Suppers starting on February 14th. There are six soup suppers that need desserts provided. Contact the office if you'd like to sign up to bring treats for one of the weeks. Thank you!

Social Ministry

Social Ministry Calendar of Events

Global Health Ministries	January 8 th & 22 nd
Keystone Mobile Food Distribution	January 9 th
Quilting and Bandage Rolling	January 10 th & 24 th
Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission	January 14 th
Rezek Welcome Home Shower	January 14 th - February 11 th
Loaves and Fishes	January 15 th
Global Health Ministries	January 8 th & 22 nd
Panera Bread Ministry	Weekly

Thank You!

Thank you for your generosity during the Christmas Gift collection! Together, we were able to provide three families with gifts this holiday season! Thank you for making this holiday brighter for families in the community.

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 are available on the church website as a PDF document and hard copies are 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.)

Rezek House Welcome Home Shower

Did you know that St. Michael's partners with a youth homeless shelter in St. Paul? Rezek House is home to youth ages 16-21 who live in apartment-style housing while they complete schooling or look for work. This winter, we will be collecting items that the youth need for their apartment at Rezek House...many residents have never lived on their own!

We will collect items from January 14-February 11.

To participate in the Rezek Welcome Home Shower...

- ⇒ watch the Social Ministry Bulletin board for tags showing suggestions and needs
- ⇒ Select the tag, purchase the item, bring the item to church collection box, located near the sanctuary

3rd—5th Grade Events



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.

A chaperone is needed—contact Pr. Ali if you are interested!

7:00 p.m. Saturday—10:00 a.m. Sunday Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$5.00 per person. Sign up deadline: January 17th

St. Michael's Day at Feed My Starving Children

Saturday, February 3, 2018 @9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Feed My Starving Children, Coon Rapids

Families are encouraged to join us at the Coon Rapids location of Feed My Starving Children for a morning of service! Together we will package meals that will be sent to hungry people all over the world. We will meet at Feed My Starving Children at 9:00 am and serve until 11:00 am.

Bring the whole family! The minimum age for serving is 5 years old.

Register online at <http://volunteer.fmssc.org/Register/Group/JoinGroup.aspx?gid=1204874>

Save the Date for Summer Camp – July 8-13

St. Michael's youth who have completed 3rd grade – 12th grade are invited to an incredible week at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, MN! Registration information will be available in February. Camp Scholarships are available!



Vision, Mission, and Values

Since last spring the church council and a strategic planning team have been working on St. Michael's Vision, Mission, and Values. This work has been rooted in the work of the MET and "The Heart of St. Michael's" document as well as the rich traditions in the congregation. These will be presented at the congregational meeting and utilized on February 11.

Vision

Gather, Nurture, Send

Mission

The community at St. Michael's Lutheran Church:
Gathers around God's grace for all in word and sacrament;
Nurtures faith through learning, music, relationships, and generosity; and
Sends us to act for justice, and serve with others following the way of Jesus.

Values

Expansive Welcome
Generous Hospitality

Gather
 We celebrate that God's grace and love is for all people.
 We engage the community and world with open hearts and minds, offering our time, talents, and resources.

Vibrant Worship & Faith

Nurture
 We honor Scripture and the Lutheran tradition which enriches and transforms our lives through worship, education, music, and service.

Authentic Relationships

We experience God in meaningful relationships as we live, learn, grow, and have fun together.

Equip in Vocation

Send
 We live out our faith by exploring our calling, passions, and questions as individuals and a community.

Acting for Justice and Peace

We are called to speak and act with and for all in need, and to care for the gift of God's creation.

6th—8th Grade Events:

January 27-28, 2018

Slumber Party: 6th-8th Grade Youth Leadership

6-8th grade youth are invited to help lead the 3-5th grade slumber party!

Be sure to sign up on the youth bulletin board across from the church office!

We will have a youth leader pizza party on **January 21st** at 12:30pm-1:30pm in the youth room.

This meeting is an important time of planning and preparing for the slumber party – don't miss it!

6-12th Grade Urban Immersion Retreat – February 23-25

Middle School and Senior High Students are invited for a special weekend of service learning in Minneapolis. We will stay at the Greater Council of Churches retreat center and complete service projects across the Twin Cities. Youth will learn about poverty, homelessness, and how to be advocates and leaders among their peers. Space is limited! Register by January 21st.

Cost: \$100. Sign up and registration is available on the church bulletin board.

Confirmation Retreat – January 13-15

Confirmation students will be attending a weekend at Camp Wapo with St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church to learn about healthy relationships, sexuality, and faith.

Youth should arrive to St. Michael's by 8:30 am on January 13th.

Youth will return to St. Michael's on January 15th around 12:15 pm.

Recyclables Needed! The confirmation class will need the following items for a project on the retreat –items can be brought to Pastor Ali's office! Thank you for your support!



- ⇒ milk jugs—all sizes, rinsed
- ⇒ Cardboard boxes, collapsed flat
- ⇒ String
- ⇒ Rubber bands
- ⇒ Plastic containers with lids

Live in New York

It's SML (St. Michael's Lutheran)!

Senior High Mission Trip

The Senior High Youth will be heading to New York City in June for their mission trip where they will be volunteering at Trinity Lutheran Church on the lower east side of Manhattan and the congregation's Services and Food for the Homeless (SAFH) as well as other organizations. Tentative dates are June 16-23. There will be a meeting of youth and families on Tuesday, January 30, 6:00 pm.

Thank you for your Generosity!

Over the years, St. Michael's has provided a bold witness of God's love to those in our community and around the world. Your faithful stewardship in 2017 continued our history of generosity and brought to life our 2018 Stewardship theme: **The Joy of Giving!** Our congregation knows full well how generosity can cultivate joy for both the giver and the receiver.

The following reflects the various ministries that our congregation has supported in the past year, meeting the needs of a hungry and hurting world, all to the Glory of God.

We gave \$134,000 to care for people and the larger church through the ministries and agencies of the St. Paul Area Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We gave \$20,300 from the Disaster Relief Fund to provide aid for natural disasters such as Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Maria, Hurricane Irma, flooding in the Carolinas, and in support of Lutheran World Relief, Bread for the World, and Lutheran Mideast Development.

We gave \$1,500 to the St. Paul Council of Churches that helped provided funding for their work in ministries that address poverty such as Project Home, and interfaith dialogue such as Interfaith Youth Connection, and SPIN Interfaith Network.

We gave \$5,000 to Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota to support the important ministries they provide that touch people's lives in time of need such as services for refugees, financial counseling, adoption services, foster care, behavioral health services, etc.

We gave \$12,500 to Holy Hammers, a consortium of churches, which, through Habitat for Humanity, built a home in St. Paul. St. Michael's members donated hundreds of volunteer hours to build the home for an immigrant family from Somalia.

We gave \$4,800.00 to Rezek House, a transitional youth shelter in St. Paul. St. Michael's also provided volunteer hours in yard clean up, apartment cleaning and fixing, and provided monthly community meals.

We gave \$800 to the Roseville Area Meals on Wheels program

We gave \$3,000 to support church starts in the St. Paul Area Synod

We gave \$300 to the Roseville Area Angel Fund that supports crisis assistance to our community through Keystone Social Services

We gave \$6,995 in groceries and donations to Keystone, the local food shelf, including hundreds of pounds of rescued re-packaged bread from Panera bakery

We gave \$500 to the 2017 Overcoming Racism Conference at Metropolitan State University

We gave \$360 to World Vision and \$300 to the Tree Trust from our youngest members of the church who gave through the Sunday School Offering

We gave \$1,000 to Lutheran Campus Ministry raised by the annual Bazaar

We gave \$2,060 to buy food for the Loaves and Fishes meal which served over 1,000 people a hot, nutritious meal

We gave \$2,875 to World Hunger to help feed hungry people through the ELCA World Hunger appeal

We gave \$4,812 from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and special gift fund which was used to help people struggling with a variety of needs such as rental assistance

Continued on page ten

We gave \$1,200 to Global Health Ministries and hundreds of hours of volunteer work to send medical supplies to those in need around the globe

We gave \$180 for nutritional supplies to an orphanage in Jamaica where a group from St. Michael's traveled for a week of service

We gave \$2,000 to support the ministry of Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camps

We gave \$500 to provide support for our partner congregation in Cimiento, Guatemala

We gave \$1,000 to build dressers on God's Work Our Hands Day for Bridging, a local furniture bank where low-income families transitioning out of homelessness can "shop" for furniture and household goods.

We gave \$850 in new microloans through Kiva to help individuals around the world build businesses that will help support their families and communities. To date, St. Michael's has given \$7,850 in microloans

We gave \$627 of bread and supplies to make over 4,000 sandwiches to the Union Gospel Mission to be distributed to clients and day workers. A St. Michael's member generously donates the meat for the sandwiches each month!

We gave thousands of dollars in supplies, gifts, and gift cards for collection drives such as the School Supply Drive, the Diaper Drive, the Winter Clothing Drive, the Christmas Gift Drive and the Rezek Welcome Home Shower

We sent 18 senior high youth and 5 adults on a mission trip to Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana. The youth experienced life on the reservation, served in a school day program, completed yard and building work for community and the Lutheran Church on the reservation, and explored the beauty and history of Montana. A generous member of St. Michael's donated funds to cover \$9,180 of trip expenses!

We provided dozens of quilts created by members of the congregation to Veterans' Administration facilities and sent rolled bandages and medical supplies around the world through volunteer efforts at Global Health Ministries

We welcomed into our church home Northern Voices School for Deaf Children and dozens other groups to host ACA meetings, concerts, banquets, and educational programs to foster peace and justice

We give thanks to your generous and faithful stewardship in 2016! We gave over \$216,639 to make our compassion tangible and show love to our neighbors in need. May we continue our commitment to serve others, living out the joy that comes from giving!

With deep gratitude,

Pastor Brad & Pastor Ali

Saint Paul Area Synod Conference Assemblies Saturday, February 24—Hosted by St. Michael's

The morning of Saturday, February 24, St. Michael's will be serving as host site for the Saint Paul Area Synod Conference Assemblies. There will be opportunities for members of St. Michael's to serve as greeters, coffee/snack servers, and hosts. A sign-up sheet is on the board across from the church office; people may sign up for a two hour time slot or for the whole morning. Should there be a snowstorm or challenging weather the conference assemblies will take place the afternoon of Sunday, February 25.

Holden Village Trip—July 28-August 3, 2018

There are fifty people from St. Michael's who have expressed an initial interest in going to Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington state, this coming summer. Holden is an incredible place that offers opportunities for learning and exploration, hiking and camping, arts and crafts, community connection, worship, and so much more!

St. Michael's is now registered to bring a group to Holden the week of **July 28-August 3**. We anticipate that it will take 1 travel day on each side of the week (looking at leaving July 27 and returning August 4 for those traveling as a group).

There will be a meeting/gathering on **Thursday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Room** to further plan for the trip to Holden. Please contact Pastor Brad with any questions or if you would like additional information.

The teaching faculty for the week of July 28-August 3 will include:

The Rev. Dr. Gary Mason: Gary holds a PhD from the school of Psychology at the University of Ulster. He was also awarded an honorary Doctor in Divinity for his role in peace building in Ireland, from Florida Southern College. He completed his theological studies at Queens University and holds a Bachelor's in Business Studies from the University of Ulster. Gary is a Senior Research Fellow at the Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention at Maynooth University in Ireland. He is also an adjunct Professor at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta.

Gary has lectured in political, religious and academic forums throughout Europe, South Africa, the Middle East and the U.S.A. seeking to engage, mentor and share lessons from the Irish peace process. He has travelled widely in the USA and has spoken in Churches of all Christian denominations as well as other faith settings.

The Rev. Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker: Kathryn M Schifferdecker came to Luther Seminary as an assistant professor of Old Testament in 2006. Ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 2001 with her Master of Divinity from Yale University and Doctorate of Theology (Th.D.) from Harvard University, Schifferdecker was associate pastor for five years at Trinity Lutheran Church, Arkdale, Wisc., before coming to Luther.

Chuck & Peg Hoffman: Chuck Hoffman and Peg Carlson-Hoffman have shared a ministry of reconciliation rooted in community building and shared artwork, a prophetic ministry which has taken them into some of the most intractable places of religious and political conflict around the globe. Through their studio, Genesis + Art, they have worked in Belfast, Northern Ireland, as well as Israel/Palestine, India, and many communities here in the USA. Their work in Belfast over many years runs especially deep - at the core of their sense of call to Holden at this time of building vital and vibrant work in developing innovative new programs for Holden in its ongoing process of healing.

As life-long Lutherans and lay leaders in a vital international ministry of art and reconciliation, Chuck and Peg use a theological voice, rooted in Word and Sacrament, prayer, music, and silence. Chuck has a Master of Arts in Art and Theology / Missions from Luther Seminary, St. Paul.

Peg and Church came to Holden Village as Executive Directors and offer opportunities to facilitate dialogue through art with groups to create greater understanding among diverse people. The transformative power of art runs deep. It is at the core of their calling to Holden, especially at this time of building vital, vibrant, and innovative programs to heal the land, the community, and to equip those who come to learn in the Village to find a common purpose which unites rather than divides.



St Michael's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Roseville, Minnesota 55113**

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S T A F F

Brad Froslee

Pastor

Ali Ferin

Pastor

Mary Gail Hadley

Office Administrator

Brian Thompson

Youth Worker

Thomas Bartsch

Organist

Jill Schendel

Pianist

Karen Wilkerson

Adult Choir Director

Charles Preis

Adult Bell Choir Director

Cory Bock

Youth Choir Director

Molly Raben

Youth Choir Accompanist

Fernando Garcia

Custodian

Sam Koland

Custodian

Kye Smith

Custodian

Owen Hamer

Custodian

**brad@stmichaelselca.com
ali@stmichaelselca.com
office@stmichaelselca.com**