

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Ministry Highlight	P.3
Congregational Meeting	P. 3
CYF News	P. 4, 6 & 7
Congregational Life	P. 5
Adult Learning	P. 8-9
Social Ministry	P. 10-12
Budget Update	P. 13
Thank you!	P. 14-15
January Calendar	Insert

**Join us for worship
Sunday morning
at 8:45 a.m.
or 11:00 a.m.**

From the Pastor's Desk



Quite the Journey

On Sunday, January 5th we, at St. Michael's, will be celebrating the Epiphany a day early. The Epiphany is the arrival of the magi at

the manger and concludes the twelve days of Christmas. 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 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.

It is likely we will 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, an openness to seeing the signs around us and seeking God's holy presence, the willingness challenge to corrupt authority, and 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!

As we move into 2020 we take a moment to reflect on the journey of 2019—the church council and committees have dreamed much this year and have carried out work with the strategic planning; children, youth, and adults have explored faith and learning in education, worship, and ways to serve the larger community; we welcomed Jon Bates as the Director of Children, Youth, and

Family Ministries; we publicly stated our welcome of those who are lgbtq+ as we became a Reconciling in Christ congregation; there has been much joy as we have had over a dozen baptisms this year, and there have been tears with the loss of loved ones in families and circles of friends, hard life transitions, and moves. And throughout the year we have opened ourselves to seeing God made real among us.

Now, with the star beckoning, we journey again into a New Year and the promise that God will be revealed among us again new ways. Much like the magi, 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, seeking promises yet to be revealed.

Perhaps those promises will sing to you through the guitar and percussion at the 8:45 a.m. service this Epiphany season, or will come in moments of care and connection at the Women's retreat in February or the new Men's retreat in April, perhaps God's promise will come to life during Lent as we welcome a guest theologian (Dr. Jeremy Myers, Augsburg University) and guest musician (Rachel Kurtz) to join us during our Wednesday evening Holden Evening Prayer services, or the serving of neighbors with the Holy Hammers on a Habitat projects, or the trip to Guatemala, or a meal served at Loaves and Fishes. We travel with the magi on this journey of faith and promise.

This month, this season, and in the year ahead, we come to the manger and we look with the hope and the wonder to Jesus, Emmanuel. We come simply from the roads of our lives, with the gifts we have to offer, and a desire to meet God in the world. We come and again see, hear, and know God's promise made real.

For the journey that has been...and the journey yet to unfold...a blessed Epiphany and Ne Year!

~ Pastor Brad

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed:

Wednesday, December 25

Friday, December 27

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

**PERSONAL
WELLNESS**

January Ministry Highlight

"...I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10b

To learn more about the following ministries contact the church office at 651-631-1510 or office@stmichaelselca.com

LEARN

January 12 - Adult Education Religion in Life, 10:00 am Courtyard Room
Cherish All Children: Preventing child exploitation and trafficking with Lutheran Social Service

January 26 - Adult Education Religion in Life, 10:00 am Courtyard Room
Raising Emotionally Intelligent Children with Dr. Toni Schutta

February 2 - Adult Education Religion in Life, 10:00 am Courtyard Room
Health Care Today with Senator John Marty

GIVE

Rezek House Welcome Home Shower - During Jan 12th through Feb 16th we will be collecting cleaning items for youth who live at Rezek House Transitional Shelter. For many youth, this is the first place they have to call home and are learning about personal hygiene and healthy living. Help them get off to a good start! Visit the Social Ministry display at church to learn more.

VOLUNTEER

Daily - Panera Bread Rescue
Collect bread from the Rosedale Panera Bakery and bring it to church where it will be sorted in the morning and donated to local community partners. Evening pick up and morning sorters are needed!

January 6 - Make a meal for youth living in the Rezek House Transitional Homeless Shelter

January 12 - Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission
Head to the kitchen at 10:00 am to help make sandwiches for the Union Gospel Mission. Additional Volunteers are needed to pick up supplies and deliver sandwiches to the St. Paul Union Gospel Mission.

January 13 & 27 - Global Health Ministries
Address global poverty and health care needs by sorting donated medical supplies before they are shipped to clinics across the globe.

January 14 - Food Mobile Distribution
St. Michael's serves as a mobile food shelf location once a month.

January 15 & 29 - Quilting and Bandage Rolling 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Help make quilts for the local VA and roll bandages for Global Health Ministries!

**GET
INVOLVED**

Women of all ages are invited to the annual **Women's Retreat** titled, *Practice Presence with Yoga Devotion* February 28 - March 1, 2020 at Luther Crest Camp in Alexandria. Cost: \$160. Register at the church office or online.

The next eight-week session of **Yogadevotion** will start on Monday, January 6 and run through February 24. The one-hour class begins at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Beginners are welcome. For questions contact kathynockleby@gmail.com.

Worship News

Great thanks to all who have served faithfully as worship volunteers in 2019!

We so appreciate all ushers, communion deacons, lectors, cantors, acolytes, greeters, bread bakers, and coffee servers! Thank you!

We you prepare for the year ahead, you may sign-up online — Sign-Up Genius is live for 2020!

Congregation Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th after the 11:00 worship service in the Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will be served as we celebrate our year of ministry and plan for our future together.



We will :

- ◇ Receive Annual Program Report
- ◇ Approve the 2020 Budget
- ◇ Accept Constitution changes (from the ELCA's Model Constitution following Churchwide Assembly 2019)
- ◇ Vote on Committee bylaw changes
- ◇ Elect council members

Confirmation Updates



Mentor Night is January 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be welcoming a guest speaker to talk about Islam and Christianity.

The **confirmation retreat** is January 18th-20th. Meet at church at 8:30 a.m. on January 18th.

Confirmation Information Meeting for Families in 6th - 9th Grade
January 29th, 6:30 p.m.

Families of 6th - 9th graders are invited to this informational meeting to discuss possible changes to the confirmation program for the 2020-2021 year.



Looking for Confirmation Mentors

Are you looking to deepen your faith? Passionate about young people? Want to make a difference in the life of someone else? Then you'd be a perfect confirmation mentor!

We are now looking for confirmation mentors to serve in the next program year. Contact Pastor Ali to learn more!

Life of the Congregation

St. Michael's member Ruth Buetow died on November 21st. Her funeral was held at St. Michael's on December 21st. Please continue to hold her friends and family in prayer as they grieve.

All Church Dinner & All Committee Night

Join us at the next All Church Dinner & All Committee Night on January 12, 2020!

Everyone is welcome to the meal and if you'd like to use the free childcare from 6:30-8 pm, please contact Jon Bates, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at youth@stmichaelselca.com by noon on Sunday, January 5.

Yogadevotion News

The next eight-week session of Yogadevotion will start on Monday, January 6 and run through February 24.

The one-hour class begins at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Beginners are welcome. Bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing. The cost is \$72 and can be paid at the first class. Make checks payable to St Michael's. For questions contact kathynockleby@gmail.com.

Desserters II Book Club

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Room. We'll discuss *My Sister the Serial Killer* by Oyinkan Braithwaite. "Korede should probably go to the police for the good of the menfolk of Nigeria, but she loves her sister and, as they say, family always comes first."

Now Available: 2nd Half with Lyngblomsten Catalog

2nd Half with Lyngblomsten is a life enrichment center for adults over 50 years old. Their programs seek to connect older adults to resources, opportunities to enhance their lives, and community resources. Pick up a catalog from the literature rack across from the coat racks to learn what's going on in the community and to get involved!

Save the Date - Men's Retreat

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Men's Retreat!

April 17–19, 2020

Luther Crest Bible Camp—Alexandria, MN

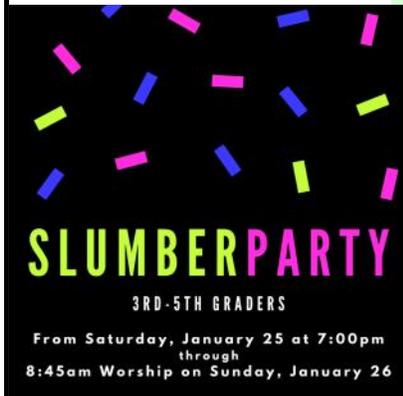
\$165 for double/ \$205 for single

See Pr. Brad for further information.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Children Ministries (Infants - 5th Grade)

- Thank you to the children and adult leaders that helped make enough cookies for 17 homebound members in December. All of the cookies were warmly appreciated!
- **Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Volunteer Check-in:** Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30pm. All volunteers that do ministry with the children and youth are invited to check-in together.
*Confirmation mentors excluded.



Slumber Party

Saturday, January 25 at 7:00pm - 8:45am Worship Service on Sunday, January 26

3rd - 5th Graders pack a sleeping bag and come at 7:00pm for a night of fun! Kids spend the night at church playing games, completing a service project, doing crafts, watching movies, and the next morning we will worship together at the 8:45am service in our pajamas! All participants are encouraged to attend Sunday School after worship. **Cost is \$5.** Friends are invited! Please sign-up with Slumber Party form and CYF Release Form.

Youth (6-12th Graders) are needed for youth leaders to make the night possible. See details below!

Youth Ministries (6th-12th Grade)

- **Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Volunteer Check-in:** Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30pm. All volunteers that do ministry with the children and youth are invited to check-in together. *Confirmation mentors excluded.
- **Slumber Party Youth Leaders (6th-12th graders):** Saturday, January 25 at 6:30pm through 8:45am Worship Service on Sunday, January 26 - Help lead the Slumber Party by helping lead games, help with snacks, and provide leadership for the event. You **need** to attend the Slumber Party Training which begins at 6:30pm. Pack your sleeping bag and pajamas! All leaders are encouraged to attend Sunday School on January 26. Slumber Party Form and CYF Release Form by the event.
- **St. Michael's Youth Gathering:** Wednesday, January 22 from 6:30-8:00pm - The Youth Gathering is an opportunity for **ALL** high school students to gather and form community. The Youth Gathering will have intentional and loose connections to the Service Trip through focused conversations, games, and other experiences.
- **Service Trip to Palmer, AK:** \$100 Deposit due on Sunday, January 29



URBAN IMMERSION

6th-8th grades stay at the Greater Council of Churches Retreat Center for a special weekend of service learning completing service projects across the Twin Cities. Students learn about poverty, homelessness and how to be advocates and leaders among their peers.



Serve. Learn. Speak.

Urban Immersion

Friday, February 7 from 5:30pm - Sunday, February 9 at 8:30am

6th-8th grades stay at the Greater Council of Churches Retreat Center for a special weekend of service learning completing service projects across the Twin Cities. Students learn about poverty, homelessness and how to be advocates and leaders among their peers.

\$50 Deposit is due on Sunday, January 5. As the remaining cost of \$100 is due on Sunday, February 2.

save the dates

- **Feed My Starving Children (Eagan Location):** Saturday, March 28 from 9-11am
- **LIFT:** Sunday, March 22 from 10:00-10:50am
- **Easter Breakfast Prep** - April 11 at 9:00am
- **Easter Breakfast** - April 12 at 7:00am
- **Escape Room & Lunch (Middle School):** Saturday, April 18 from 10:00-1:00pm
- **Park Day:** Sunday, May 3 at 2-4pm
- **High School Service Trip:** June 13-20
- **LutherCrest Bible Camp:** July 19-24

For all events, please sign up online at stmichaels.com/cyfsignup or in the church hallway.

High School Service Trip 2020

PALMER, ALASKA
SATURDAY, JUNE 13 - SATURDAY, JUNE 20



The high school youth (current 9th-12th graders) have the opportunity of going to Alaska this upcoming summer?! This seems like a **big** deal! It's hard to believe. But it's true.

After what didn't seem possible due to price, timing, and opportunities, and even logic- things fell together! The Service Trip will have a focus of Accompaniment Theology, learning about Climate Change, and relationship with Trinity Lutheran Church in Palmer, AK.

Beginning in 2020, the Service Trips will lean into begin a rotation of a "**big**" trip every four years, to allow high school youth to experience **TRULY** out of their comfort zone. Alaska will do that. And this is only possible with the support of St. Michael's Lutheran Church. Thank you.

Future years, we'll be pursuing to have a location in the nation that we can visit every twice in the rotation.

Need more info on the Service Trip? Grab a booklet in the Youth Room. We'd like to take 25 youth! First payment is due on Sunday, January 29.

LIFT

Living in Faith Together
Intergenerational Sunday School
Fellowship Hall at St. Michael's
10:00am-10:50am

Next one on
JAN 5.

A Reflection from the first LIFT on November 24, 2019

How do you see hope in the CYF ministries at St. Michael's?

I see hope in the willingness of people of all ages to give time and gather for the Intergenerational Ministries. It is a pleasure to meet families with children whom I don't usually get to visit with at any other time. This is a great way to express our Extravagant Welcome values among congregation members, not just with people outside of St. Michael's. I find joy in watching the smiles of old and young alike - **the activities aren't the important part, but the relationship building is.**

- Ruth Peterson

Intergenerational Ministry Summer plans

Last year, the Youth & Education Committees curated St. Mike's Summer Sundays. After receiving surveys and having conversations together.

This year, we'll be extending LIFT into the summer!

Save the Dates!

**Summer LIFT from
10:00am-1:00pm**

Sunday, June 7 | Sunday, June 28

Sunday, July 12 | Sunday, August 2

Questions, comments, or called to volunteer?

Connect with Jon Bates (Children, Youth & Family Director):
youth@stmichaelselca.com or 651-631-1510 ext. 202



@stmichaelsELCA

Women's Circles

Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 7th at 9:30 a.m. in the Courtyard Room. Cathy Vanous and Irmeli Moran are hosting.

Elisabeth Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 8th at 1:00pm in the Courtyard Room. Carol Jacobsen is hosting.

Register Today for the Women's Retreat!



Practice Presence with Yoga Devotion

February 28 - March 1, 2020

LutherCrest Bible Camp, Alexandria MN

Cost: \$160

Register by January 12!

Lutheran Pastor and nurse Cindy Senarighi will guide us in a weekend of Practicing Presence through YogaDevotion.

YogaDevotion is for **ALL** bodies and does not require a certain level of flexibility or yoga experience. The weekend will include various opportunities to practice presence through relationships, yoga, and art.

Register today at <http://www.stmichaelselca.com/2020womensretreat.html> or by getting a registration form from the bulletin board outside of the church office.

Faith in Daily Life—Wednesdays, 12:00—1:00 p.m.

Faith in Daily Life is an opportunity to dive in and converse about faith, life, scripture, and current events—using a book as a springboard. There are three groups; each meets once a month at a different location over lunch. Feel free to join for the year or stop in as you have time or opportunity.

From January through May we will be reading *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian* by Brian McLaren.

The gatherings will be: Wednesday, January 8—Thrivent Lunchroom
 Wednesday, January 15—St. Michael's Courtyard Room
 Wednesday, January 22—Chianti Grill
 (note changes due to New Year's Day)

This month, we will discuss the Preface and Introduction from *The Great Migration*.

Monday Morning Ministries

January 6—7:00-8:00ish a.m.—Fellowship Hall Serving Area

This month we'll be discussing pages pp. 1-23 of Tod Bolsinger's book *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian leadership in Uncharted Territory*.

Religion in Life

Sunday mornings—10:00-10:50 a.m.—Courtyard Room

The Religion in Life hour offers the St. Michael's community an opportunity to:

- *Gain a deeper understanding of the Bible and spiritual practices so as to nurture a mature faith*
- *Examine dynamics with regard to personal growth, parenting, marriage and human relationships to enhance health and well-being*
- *Better understand the significant social issues in our community, nation, and world and consider how our faith calls us to respond*

The following speakers are lined up for December...mark your calendars now!

Sunday, January 5	LIFT—Intergenerational Sunday School <i>Jon Bates, Brian Thompson</i>
Sunday, January 12	Cherish All Children <i>Joy McElroy</i>
Sunday, January 19	Guatemala Team Update
Sunday, January 26	EQ: Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child <i>Toni Schutta</i>

Men's Bible & Brew

Tuesday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Michael's in St. Michael's Youth Room.

Come with a beverage or snack to share.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday Morning Bible Study meets from 9:30—10:30 a.m. in Classroom I. This year we are focusing on the lectionary passages for upcoming weeks—giving people an opportunity to wrestle and think about the texts as they prepare to hear and experience them in worship. We will meet on January 9, 16, 23, & 30—but there will be no class on January 2.

 <p>Our Guatemala Partnership</p> <p>Travel: March 12-21, 2020</p>	<p>Next <u>Travel</u> Meeting January 23, 6:30pm</p> <p>Next <u>Team</u> Meeting January 15, 9:30am</p> <p>Contact Lisa Koland</p>
--	--

<p>Word of the Month</p>	<p>Milagro: pronounced Me-lah-grow (accent on the lah)-- Miracle.</p>
	<p>Sometimes when travelling in Guatemala, and meeting the people, we experience milagros.</p>

Question: How does ILAG support Personal Wellness for their congregations?

Answer: Coinciding with our January – March focus on Personal Wellness, please see the full-page write up on the Health Initiatives ILAG has championed for each household in every congregation.

Question: How can we support education in Cimiento and Guatemala?

Answer: MILAGRO provides an educational opportunity for the young women of ILAG communities. The goals of MILAGRO are to: break the cycle of poverty, teach a trade that could provide girls with an income to be economically independent, develop leadership skills and self-esteem, learn to express their needs, and know their civil rights as women and as Guatemalans.

St. Michael's has been invited to contribute to the MILAGRO school fund to help support the education of girls at MILAGRO which this year includes Amaryllis, a 14 year old from Cimiento and a member of Santa Cruz de la Esperanza.



Amaryllis and her family have been involved in establishing the church in Cimiento from the beginning and have been gracious hosts to us on each of our visits.

The school year starts in January and runs through October in Guatemala so Amaryllis is eagerly preparing for her trip to Guatemala City and all the new skills she will learn. The program runs for a minimum of 3 years, depending on the course of study each student chooses, and includes all room and board. Each year costs \$4500 to support a student.

Please consider a special gift to support Amaryllis and the girls studying at MILAGRO. St. Michael's will be establishing a continuing fund to be able to provide additional gifts to ILAG's MILAGRO school fund.

Visit the Guatemala bookshelf in the Courtyard Room for introductions to the families of Cimiento and more information on our partnership.

January Ministry Highlight: Personal Wellness

As we highlight Personal Wellness ministries of St. Michael's, we would also like to highlight that Promoting Health and Wellness is one of the seven primary missions of the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG). Supporting God's call to care for our brothers and sisters, ILAG provides health education and identifies and coordinates illness-prevention projects. Materials and skilled labor are always sourced from Guatemala and local companies are utilized for design services. Initiatives include:

Health Training

ILAG runs health workshops at the Lutheran Center and brings in educators to teach basic first aid, healthy habits, and illness prevention. There are no medical services in some of the villages and no health education so the individuals trained at the Lutheran Center return to their villages as Health Promoters to share the information and skills they have learned with the congregation and the village.

Latrine Project

Many villages lack water and sewer systems or they are unreliable at best. Streams in many villages are used as their water source, laundry and bathing facilities, and the sewer system, resulting in repeated illnesses.

ILAG provided the design, materials, and training so each church and each household in each of the congregations could build a latrine. They also provided education on water-borne illnesses and the importance of keeping sewage out of the water supply.

Water Filtration Project

As the next step in decreasing the high occurrences of water-borne illnesses, ILAG identified a Guatemalan-made water filter that could be used in each household. In addition to distributing and training congregations to use the household water filters, ILAG also implemented a larger scale project of catching rainwater from roofs and storing it in cisterns equipped with a filter.

Not only do the cisterns utilize a renewable resource, they save time by eliminating the need to haul water to homes from the stream or a centralized point in the village.

Stove Project

Cooking in the villages in Guatemala has historically been done over open fires. Unfortunately, this generates a large number of risks to the health of the villagers. Burns from the cooking fires are common and can be severe, especially in children. The smoke from the fires not only causes respiratory illnesses but is a leading cause of blindness; blindness is almost 5 times more prevalent in Guatemala than in the United States.

The cooking stoves which ILAG distributes were designed in Guatemala and can be disassembled and put back together if there is a need to move. The stoves incorporate an exhaust flow and stack so smoke can be exhausted outside of the homes, greatly improving air quality. An additional benefit of this stove design is the heat distribution efficiency which significantly reduces the need for firewood, saving hours of time and acres of trees. In fact, the stoves can be brought to full temperature by burning a handful of corn cobs discarded after the daily chore of preparing the corn tortillas.

Social Ministry January Calendar of Events

Weekly	Panera Bread
January 12 – Feb 16	Rezek Welcome Home Shower
January 3	Rezek House Meal – 4:00 pm at 501 Asbury Street, St. Paul
January 12	Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission - 10:00 a.m. in the Church Kitchen
January 13 & 27	Global Health Ministries - 8:30 a.m. at 7831 Hickory Street NE, Fridley
January 14	Food Mobile Distribution - 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. outside of the Courtyard Room
January 15 & 29	Quilting & Bandage Rolling - 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
January 16	Refugee Resettlement Conversation

Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Partnership

St. Michael's is a member of the Minnesota Council of Churches, a network of Christian faith communities seeking to build respectful, welcoming, and just communities. A representative from the Minnesota Council of Churches will be coming to St. Michael's to meet with the Social Ministry committee about what it means for churches to sponsor a refugee family.

The Social Ministry Committee invites all who are interested in refugee resettlement to join this initial conversation as we learn more and discern the possibility of sponsoring refugees. Join us on January 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Room for this important conversation!

Thank you from the Social Ministry Committee

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Christmas Gift Drive! We were able to provide Christmas gifts to three local families. Your generosity is a gift to the congregation and community!

Rezek House Welcome Home Shower

Did you know St. Michael's partners with a youth homeless shelter in St. Paul? Rezek House is home to 16-21 year old youth who live in apartment-style housing while they complete schooling or look for work. We will be collecting cleaning items that the youth need for an apartment at Rezek House. Many residents have never lived on their own, so are setting up an apartment for the first time. **This Year, we will be collecting items from Sunday, January 12th through Sunday, February 16th.**

To participate in the Rezek House Welcome Home Shower:

- ⇒ Watch for the Social Ministry Bulletin Board for tags showing needed items
- ⇒ Select a tag
- ⇒ Purchase the item
- ⇒ Bring the item to the church collection box, located near the Sanctuary, by Sunday, February 16th.

Thank you for your generosity!

2019 Budget Overview from the Finance Committee



	YTD Actual as of 11/30/19	YTD Budget as of 11/30/19	Annual Approved Budget
Income	\$ 646,703	\$ 746,283	\$ 814,668 ¹
Expenses	\$ 718,797	\$ 743,022	\$ 814,668
Net Balance	\$ -72,094	\$ 3,261	\$ 0

¹ At the Annual Meeting on January 27, 2019, the congregation approved use of reserve funds of \$49,822.81, if needed to meet the budget at the end of the year. This is included in the Annual Approved Budget of \$814,668.

February *Messenger*
newsletter article submission deadline
Friday, January 22
at 9:00 a.m.



The 2020 sign-ups are uploaded onto the Sign-Up Genius site. We're still working on adding the names of those who expressed interest on their Time & Talent forms. But—you can go ahead and begin adding your name to the areas you're available to volunteer. Thank you!

Go Green

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



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 2019 continued our history of generosity in the community. 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 \$100,000 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 \$4,500 from the Disaster Relief Fund to provide aid for natural disasters such as tornadoes in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, as well as supporting our partners in Guatemala to assist with repairs to a children's school after it nearly collapsed.

We gave \$100 to support Bread for the World, a non-partisan collaborative of Christians working to end hunger in the United States and abroad by supporting legislation that impacts hungry and poor people.

We gave \$1,000 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 \$1,000 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 \$11,500 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 \$6,000 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 \$1,500 to our partner church in Cimiento, Guatemala

We gave \$2,500 to support new church starts and church redevelopment in the St. Paul Area Synod

We gave \$7,550 in groceries and donations to Keystone food shelf, including hundreds of pounds of rescued re-packaged bread from Panera bakery

We gave \$500 to the 2019 Overcoming Racism Conference at Metropolitan State University

We gave \$125 to Reconciling Works to dismantle injustice based on sexual orientation, gender identity & expression through a Lutheran Lens

We gave \$250 to the Roseville Area Meals on Wheels program

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

We gave \$2,136 to buy food for the Loaves and Fishes meal which served over 500 people a hot, nutritious meal

We gave \$2,035 to World Hunger to help feed hungry people through the ELCA World Hunger appeal

We gave \$2,110 from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund which was used to help those struggling in our community with a variety of needs such as medical bills and rental assistance

We gave \$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 \$1,000 to support the ministry of Luther Crest Bible Camp

We gave \$250 to the Growing Through Loss network, providing access to grief groups throughout the north central suburbs

We gave \$200 to the Milagro Girls School in Guatemala, helping young girls from remote villages receive an education

We gave \$120 to Bridging so two local families could furnish their homes after homelessness

We gave 249 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 \$8,425 in microloans

We gave \$1,105 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 Winter Clothing Drive, the Christmas Gift Drive and the Rezek Welcome Home Shower

We sent 18 senior high youth and 4 adults on a mission trip to Little Rock Arkansas. The youth experienced life in an Eco Camp; staying in a solar powered building and working in the gardens. They created crisis kits at a disaster relief center, completed building work for Ferncliff camp, cleaned and organized a domestic abuse shelter for women and children, and visited Heifer International Learning Ranch where they learned about global poverty and sustainable agriculture. A generous member of St. Michael's donated funds to cover over \$5,000 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 of other groups to host ACA meetings, concerts, banquets, and World Citizen educational programs to foster peace and justice

We give thanks to your generous and faithful stewardship in 2019! We gave over \$145,576 to make God's compassion tangible and show love to our neighbors in need.

With deep gratitude,

Pastor Brad & Pastor Ali



**1660 County Road B West
Roseville, Minnesota 55113**

Address Service Requested

**S
T
A
F
F**

St. Michael's Lutheran

651-631-1510

www.stmichaelselca.com

Brad Froslee

Pastor

brad@stmichaelselca.com

Ali Ferin

Pastor

ali@stmichaelselca.com

Jon Bates

Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

youth@stmichaelselca.com

Brian Thompson

Children & Youth Ministries Associate

brian@stmichaelselca.com

Mary Gail Hadley

Office Administrator

office@stmichaelselca.com

Thomas Bartsch

Organist

Jill Schendel

Pianist

Karen Wilkerson

Adult Choir Director

Charles Preis

Adult Bell Choir Director

Cory Bock

Youth Choir Director

cory@stmichaelselca.com

Wenshuai Zhang

Children's Choir Accompanist

Kaia Zeigler

Nursery Care Provider

Elliot Polzin

Custodian

Sam Koland

Sunday Custodian

**We're on the web!
www.stmichaelselca.com**