



St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Messenger

January 2023

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Celebrating 70 Years! ~Pastor Brad Froslee

It was early in 1953 that a group of folks in the Roseville and Falcon Heights area felt the need for a new congregation as the area was seeing significant development. A young student intern from Augustana Theological Seminary, Ray Peterson, began serving and organizing this small community.

By September 6, 1953, the first official worship service was held in the Falcon Heights School Gymnasium. And on December 6, 1953, the organizational church service was held with a church charter being signed by 39 adults and 23 children (you can see it hanging in our current church library).

All this to say, St. Michael's is turning 70 years old this year. It has been an incredible seventy years with ministry that has touched countless lives in our local communities, across the state and nation, and around the world. There has consistently been a spirit of hospitality and welcome, of learning and faith formation,



of generosity, of rich worship, of caring for neighbors near and far.

The congregation has faced challenges along the way, members of the congregation have experienced individual and corporate heart-break, there have been times money has been very tight and many years of strong finances. People who have been present and pastors who have served have left marks on who this community has become. And with Pastor Roland Hayes serving for 38 years (over ½ the life of this congregation), this congregation has seen a marked stability, resilience, and vision for the future.

Pastor Ali and I continue to comment to each other what a gift it is to serve as pastors at St. Michael's Lutheran Church! This community embodies what it means to be church in so many ways and with so many people who bring their gifts, skills, passions, and deep care.

So, this year we will take moments to celebrate. Certainly, we will celebrate St. Michael's rich past, **AND** most certainly we will celebrate where God is calling us as we live into the future.

A favorite hymn that I learned at Harvard Divinity School is called "Spirit of Life" and it contains the lines, "Roots hold me close, wings set me free. Spirit of Life, come to me." I recognize how significant it is to be grounded or rooted in history and who we are, but there also is a call to live with freedom and newness into who we are yet becoming. This year we will do both.

You will read in this newsletter about the Annual Meeting and proposed constitutional changes that allow for co-pastors (a new opportunity grounded in St. Michael's vision of shared ministry); of a capital campaign proposal that will take the gift of our church home and continue to tend to the needs of the physical plant and enhance it for the future. As you read, you will learn a bit about the Youth Service/Learning Trip (Mission Trip) to San Francisco, educational programming for the winter and spring, and service opportunities.

This year we allow our rich history to come alive in ministry that is happening today...and that which is still unfolding. For the faithful stewards of the church who have gone before we say, "Thank you!" and to those here now we say simply, "Here we are, Lord. Use us!"

Happy Anniversary and blessings for 2023! Pastor Brad

January Worship & Education Schedule

December Worship Services

Worship at 8:45 a.m. is led by piano. Worship at 11:00 a.m. is led by organ.

Sunday, January 1: **10:00 a.m.**
Sunday, January 8: **8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**
Sunday, January 15: **8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**
Sunday, January 22: **8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**
Sunday, January 19: **8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**



Live-Streamed Services

Each Sunday, one of the worship services will be live-streamed and available for later viewing at your leisure.

Subscribe to the St. Michael's You Tube Channel to watch worship live on Sunday mornings if you are not able to come in-person. Follow this link to the St. Michael's Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbsN5e-O1XueIDWgrWE_lag/videos

Our current schedule for Live Streaming worship is:

Sunday, January 1 @ 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, January 8 @ 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, January 15 @ 8:45 a.m.
Sunday, January 22 @ 11:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 29 @ 8:45 a.m.

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 Hour

Religion in Life @ 10:00 a.m. in the Courtyard Room

January 8, 2023

Senator John Marty & the Minnesota Legislature

Join State Senator John Marty as he shares more about the work of the state legislature and conversations surrounding the upcoming legislative session.

January 15, 2023

St. Michael's Council & Annual Meeting Information

Members of the St. Michael's Executive Committee and Church Council will be talking about items for the upcoming annual meeting. This will allow time to ask questions pertaining to 2022 financials, 2023 Budget, Constitutional changes, and potential Capital Campaign.

January 22, 2023

Gun Violence & The 2nd Amendment

Professor Matt Filner, serves as professor of Political Science, former Chair of the Social Science Department, and is currently President of the Faculty Association at Metropolitan State University. Professor Filner is committed in his work and conversations surrounding the 2nd Amendment to deepen our collective understanding and build our capacity to save lives.



January 29, 2023

Trans-formation

This Sunday, often noted as Reconciling in Christ Sunday, Austen Hartke will be speaking about LGBTQI2A Allyship. How can you use your privilege for good, as an individual? How can the church create safe spaces and work for justice, as an organization? Join in the conversation and work of continuing to build an authentically welcoming community, moving from the hypothetical to the practical, in making full inclusion of all God's children a reality.

Life of the Congregation

A Place for Generosity

St. Michael's is congregation with a generous spirit. It's powerful to reflect on the lasting impact we've had on the community and around the world! Together, we participated in God's work in the world in meaningful and life-changing ways.

The following details how our generosity has been at work in 2022.

We gave \$100,000 to care for people and the larger church through the ministries and agencies of the Saint Paul Area Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We gave \$13,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response to provide aid for various disasters in the United States and around the world, including those communities impacted by hurricanes Ian, Nicole, and Fiona, the flooding in Pakistan, and flash flooding in the United States.

We gave \$10,000 to Holy Hammers, a consortium of churches which, through Habitat for Humanity, built a home for a family in White Bear Lake! St. Michael's donated hundreds of volunteer hours in construction and food/hospitality.

We gave \$5,340 for our various food ministries, including; the Loaves and Fishes meal which served over 1,300 people nutritious dinners, bread and supplies to make over 4,000 sandwiches for the Union Gospel Mission to be distributed to clients and day workers, groceries for monthly free food distributions for our neighbors, and supplies to package Panera bread to be distributed at the Keystone Food Shelf. We were able to supplement our typical expenses for these ministries with Thrivent Action Grants.

We gave \$5,500 to Keystone Community Services food shelves that serve our neighborhood, particularly through the Food Mobile which St. Michael's hosts once a month with our many dedicated volunteers.

We gave \$4,167 in support of our neighbors out of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for crisis needs such as rent, transportation, utilities bills, groceries, emergency shelter services, etc.

We gave \$3,317 in support of refugees from Afghanistan and other local asylum seekers in our community. Our dedicated refugee resettlement team has logged hundreds of volunteer hours providing welcome and support to three families from Afghanistan!

We gave \$3,130 in support of Ukrainian Refugees, both those seeking refuge in Eastern Europe and in the Twin Cities

We gave \$2,500 to the ILAG (Lutheran Church in Guatemala) to support our congregational partnership, and to their annual gala raising money for children's education scholarships and raising up and empowering local leaders.

We gave \$6,500 to our partner congregation in Cimiento, Guatemala to help fund the construction of their new church building.

We gave \$2,000 to ELCA World Hunger to help feed hungry people through the ELCA World Hunger appeal.

We gave \$1,000 to Luther Crest Bible Camp.

We gave \$1,000 to the Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul (formerly Saint Paul Council of Churches) to support their work in addressing poverty through interfaith initiatives.

We gave \$1,000 to Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota to support their important ministries such as services for refugees, homeless shelters, financial counseling, adoption services, foster care, behavioral health services, etc.

We gave \$1,000 to Lutheran Campus Ministry at University of Minnesota Minneapolis/St. Paul campus to support the faith formation of college students.

We gave \$1,250 in Holiday Gifts to Rezek House, a ministry of Lutheran Social Service that provides supportive transitional housing to homeless youth. 21 confirmation students and their adult mentors volunteered their time to shop for the gifts!

We gave \$102 in lawn care supplies for Rezek House Youth Shelter. Volunteers participate in an annual yard care day where they prepare the shelter's outdoor space for spring.

We gave \$500 to the 2022 Overcoming Racism Conference at Metropolitan State University.

We gave \$267 to the Roseville Area Schools Foundation which seeks to eliminate opportunity gaps among Roseville students, enhance college and career readiness, and provide teacher grants.

We gave \$250 to Growing Through Loss, a coalition of local congregations that creates and hosts community grief groups.

We gave \$250 to Global Health Ministries and hundreds of volunteer hours to send medical supplies to community clinics around the globe.

We gave \$200 to RIP Medical Debt, eliminating \$20,000 of medical debt in the United States. Our contribution is a part of a collaborative of Minnesota Faith Communities, Thee Alliance, with a goal of eliminating 100 million dollars in medical debt.

We gave \$200 to the Roseville School District to provide direct funding to families for school supplies and warm weather clothing. We provided hundreds of in-kind donations such as school supplies and winter boots.

We gave \$200 to the Roseville Area Meals on Wheels Program to provide food assistance for our neighbors.

We gave \$110 to Pesticide Action Network of North America, fundraised by the 7th and 8th grade Sunday School classes through selling pollinator garden seeds as they learned about God's call to care for creation.

We gave \$100 to Bread for the World, working to end hunger through advocacy.

We gave \$100 to Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, supporting LGBTQIA+ Lutheran rostered leaders and those pursuing a call to rostered leadership.

We gave \$100 to Reconciling Works, which provides advocacy, resources, and support to Reconciling in Christ congregations and congregations working to become "RIC" within the ELCA.

We gave \$100 to ISAIAH, a statewide nonpartisan coalition of faith communities fighting for racial and economic justice in Minnesota.

We provided 18 global microloans through Kiva, an international nonprofit that provides access to financial resources for underserved communities throughout the world.

We welcomed into our church home Northern Voices School for Children with Hearing Loss and dozens of other groups to host ACA meetings, community concerts, banquets, and educational programs.

We give thanks for your generous and faithful stewardship in 2022!
We gave over **\$162,183** in making God's love tangible for our neighbors in need.





**JOIN US FOR
FAMILY
SLEDDING**

**JANUARY 8TH
1PM-3PM**

Meet us at Parkview School at
701 County Rd. B W in Roseville.
Dress warmly & bring your favorite
sled.
Hot chocolate will be provided!

Middle & High School:
Join us for
Escape Room
at Hidden MN

February 19th
Cost is \$30



More details and sign ups
will be announced in the
CYF Weekly email.

**2023 High School Service Trip:
San Francisco!**



Save the Dates!
****Open to all current
8th-12th Graders****

**June 17th, 2023 to
June 24th, 2023**

**Cost: \$700 w/ Fundraising
\$850 w/o Fundraising**

**\$200 Deposit due
February 1st
Balance Due April 15th.**

**More details to be
announced! Be sure to
participate in the Bake
Sale fundraiser!**

Thrivent Action Grants

Do you have products through Thrivent? Every adult member is eligible for 2 Action Team Project Grants annually. Thrivent offers all the resources you need to get started, including up to \$250 in seed money.

St. Michael's is looking for a few members who are willing to help by applying for grants for projects including:

- Supplies for Confirmation Retreat
- Young Adult Care Packages
- Fellowship Events
- Sunday School Outreach Projects.

Contact Pastor Ali, Pastor Brad, or Natalie if you are able to help with these projects.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Christmas 2022

Tender chaos is the only way I could describe our Sunday School Christmas Pageant. St. Michael's staff and volunteers juggled costumes, bathroom breaks, nervousness, excitement and all the other chaos that came with the morning. While the morning was a bit crazy and time seemed to fly, there were a few moments that felt like holy ground when time stood still. Most of these moments were when our high school students were interacting with our younger Sunday school.

Our High School students jumped right into help. They raided the costumes and reminisced of the parts they played in the past, commenting on the memories they shared. They helped our younger ones with lining up or knowing when to enter and what song would be next. They continued to ask the adults how they could help. They held this tender nativity story and its importance for the little ones. As the pageant finished, they helped gather costumes, congratulated them and handed out snacks. These interactions will stay with our young ones at St. Michael's until the end of time. They will stay with me.

While I gush about the "backstage" interactions, I encourage you to go to our YouTube channel and watch the Pageant if you missed it. Our Preschoolers through 5th graders did an amazing job.





Confirmation Classes

7th – 9th Confirmation Updates

Confirmation is held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

- January 4 Confirmation Class
- January 6 Mentor Night
Mentor Night Trip to Mt. Zion
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- January 11 Confirmation Class
- January 14-16 Confirmation Retreat
- January 18 Confirmation Class
- January 25 Confirmation Class



Confirmation Retreat News



The confirmation retreat at Camp Wapo will be on January 14-16! To learn more about the retreat contact Pastor Ali or head to <https://www.stmichaelsca.com/confirmation-retreat.html>

Music @ St. Michael's

St. Michael's Singers, Adult Choir

Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Courtyard Room	January 8, 11:00 a.m. January 15, 8:45 a.m. January 22, 11:00 a.m. January 29, 8:45 a.m.

The Chapel Ringers, Adult Bells

Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. Adult Choir Room	January 15, both services

Youth Choirs

Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
Wednesdays Upstairs 6:30 p.m. K-4 7:30 p.m. 5-8	January 22, both services

Youth Bells

Rehearsal Schedule	Worship Schedule
Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. Adult Choir Room	January 8, both services

Social Ministry

Social Ministry Calendar

- January 6: **Every Meal Distribution**
10:00 a.m. Parkview School
- January 10: **Keystone Mobile Food Distribution**
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. *in Circle drive*
- January 8: **Sandwich Making for Union Gospel Mission**
11:00 a.m. *Serving Area & Kitchen*
- January 16: **Loaves & Fishes**
Holy Rosary Catholic Church
- January 11 & 25: **Quilting and Bandage Rolling**
9:00 a.m. *Fellowship Hall*
- Daily: **Panera Bread Ministry:** Evening pick up at Rosedale Panera, Morning Bagging in Kitchen



Food Mobile Distribution Volunteers Needed

Join the Food Mobile Distribution Team, which helps provide free groceries to our neighbors on the second Tuesday of every month. Volunteering is from 1:45 – 4pm. To learn more, contact Pastor Ali.

Thank you from Social Ministry Committee

Thank you to everyone who donated to the holiday gift drive! We were able to provide gifts for two local families that are experiencing homelessness. Your generosity was a welcomed act of care and love for these neighbors! Thank you!

Every Meal Volunteering Begins!

This month, we begin our partnership with Every Meal (formally Sheridan Story) an organization that provides free groceries to children in schools by sending home food in their backpacks on Fridays. We are packing backpacks for elementary school students at Parkview Center 2-3 Fridays a month. Thank you to those who already signed up to volunteer! If you'd like to learn more about getting involved, contact Pastor Ali!

Women's Retreat – Save the Date!

This year's women's retreat will be held on February 24-26 at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria. More information and registration to come, but mark your calendars and invite your friends!



Guatemala Partnership

I was fortunate to be able to make a trip to Guatemala with Randee Edmundson in the end of October and the beginning of November. The first week the morning was spent with the young women of Milagro. It was rewarding to see how the young women have matured. One of the young women has finished her schooling and will be returning to her village where she has received a grant to build an oven that can be used for baking breads and pastries. She was also selected to participate in a meeting in El Salvador of young people working to improve the environment. In the afternoon, we taught very basic English and nutrition to fifth and sixth graders.

The second and third weeks were spent in La Esmerelda and Santa Amelia, both towns in the Department of Peten that have been involved in our sustainable gardening and nutrition project. The highlight of this part of our trip was meeting with a women's gardening group (Mujeres Sembradoras). The women are renting a field where they all plant and maintain a large vegetable garden, and have a chance to interact with other women of all ages, and to grow, use and sell their produce. They were strong, hard workers, had a great sense of fun, and we enjoyed working with them.

Joan Felice

Study & Fellowship Opportunities

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday Morning Bible Study meets in the Courtyard Room at 9:30 a.m. This month we are exploring the weekly lectionary texts for Epiphany.

Thursday, January 5

Isaiah 42:1-9 The servant of the Lord brings justice
 Psalm 29 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
 Acts 10:34-43 Jesus' ministry after his baptism
 Matthew 3:13-17 Revelation of Christ as God's servant

Thursday, January 12

Isaiah 49:1-7 The servant brings light to the nations
 Psalm 40:1-11 I love to do your will, O my God.
 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Paul's greeting to the church at Corinth
 John 1:29-42 Revelation of Christ as the Lamb of God

Thursday, January 19

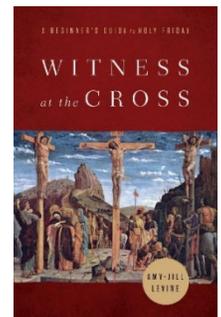
Isaiah 9:1-4 Light shines for those in darkness
 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 The Lord is my light and my salvation.
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Appeal for unity in the gospel
 Matthew 4:12-23 Revelation of Christ as a prophet

Thursday, January 26

Micah 6:1-8 The offering of justice, kindness, humility
 Psalm 15 Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God
 Matthew 5:1-12 The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes

Faith in Daily Life

January 4	<i>Witness at the Cross</i> , by Amy-Jill Levine	Intro-Chapter 2
January 11	<i>Witness at the Cross</i> , by Amy-Jill Levine	Intro-Chapter 2
February 1	<i>Witness at the Cross</i> , by Amy-Jill Levine	Chapters 3-4
February 8	<i>Witness at the Cross</i> , by Amy-Jill Levine	Chapters 3-4
March 1	<i>Witness at the Cross</i> , by Amy-Jill Levine	Chapter 5-
Conclusion		
March 8	<i>Witness at the Cross</i> , by Amy-Jill Levine	Chapter 5-
Conclusion		



Note: Sundays, March 26 and April 2, join Roland Hayes for *Religion in Life* as he explores the topic, "Why was Jesus Executed?" as we move from Palm Sunday through Holy Week.

April 5	<i>Journey to the Common Good</i> , by Walter Brueggemann	through Chapter 1
April 12	<i>Journey to the Common Good</i> , by Walter Brueggemann	through Chapter 1
May 3	<i>Journey to the Common Good</i> , by Walter Brueggemann	through Chapter 3
May 10	<i>Journey to the Common Good</i> , by Walter Brueggemann	through Chapter 3



Esther Circle

The Esther Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 3, at 10:00 a.m. in the Courtyard Room. We will continue our conversation on Art and the Liturgical Year. Join us for this time of conversation, connection, and learning! Interested in learning more? Contact Pastor Ali.

Quilting and Bandage Rolling

Quilting and bandage rolling will meet twice a month over the program year on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we turn scraps into beautiful comfort items!

Come join the fun on **January 11 & 25**.



Desserters II Book Club

All are welcome! The Desserters II book discussion group will meet next on Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00 pm in Classroom 1. Masks are encouraged.

The book for this month is: *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See

Set on the Korean island of Jeju, Mi-ja and Young-sook, two girls from very different backgrounds, begin working in the sea with their village's all-female diving collective. Over many decades—through the Japanese colonialism of the 1930s and 1940s, World War II, the Korean War, and the era of cellphones and wet suits for the women divers—Mi-ja and Young-sook develop the closest of bonds

- Feb 28, 2023** *Searching for Sylvie Lee* by Jean Kwok
- Mar 28, 2023** *American Gospel: A Novel* by Lin Enger
- Apr 25, 2023** *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb
- May 23, 2023** *The Old Woman with the Knife* by Gu Byeong-mo

Men's Bible and Brew

A reminder that St. Michael's Men's Bible & Brew will meet on Thursday, January 19, 7:00 p.m. Feel free to bring your favorite beverage and any snacks you might like to share.



For this gathering we will be reflecting on baptism and its significance.

Feel free to bring a picture or story about your own baptism. We will talk about how baptism shows up in scripture, tradition, and how it has taken shape in our own life experiences.

Yoga Devotion

All are welcome.

Yoga Devotion resumes for 2023 with an 8 week session, January 9 through February 27.

Class on Mondays starts 6:30 p.m.

Cost \$72.00

Register & pay with this link:

<https://yogadevotion.com/class/yogadevotion-flow-with-sandy-st-michaels-lutheran-church-roseville-mn-zoom-and-or-in-person-8/2023-01-09/>



DEI Matters Returns in January

We welcome you to participate in a group to explore Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Matters, using movies, article, books and open, authentic conversations in a brave space. The focus this year is on colonialism and indigenous people. These topics are geared toward adults and young adults. Watching and reading will be done individually, prior to meetings, where group discussion will allow us to consider how and why these matters matter. The purpose of this program is to broaden our self-understanding through deep self-reflection and sharing our learnings with each other. Meetings take place over Zoom.

The group is facilitated by Laurie Krachmer, a member of St Michael's who has been engaged in diversity and inclusion work for the past 8 years and is a trained facilitator.

Meetings are on the third Sundays of January through May at 4:00pm and last 60-90 minutes, depending on the need of the group.

Instructions for January 15 DEI Matters Pre-work and Zoom Meeting

Watch the following videos on colonialism and colonization:

- *What is Colonization?*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qWf4JrRVtw>
- *Colonialism: Crash Course Geography*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzHbL0ByeLY>
- *How Does Colonialism Shape the World We Live in?*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOdLzM4Iz-Y>
- Watch *Even the Rain*, 2010 movie directed by Icíar Bollaín.
The movie is available on Netflix, for purchase at Amazon, or you can borrow a DVD from Laurie.
Note: this movie is in Spanish with English subtitles.

Watch your Friday Flyer for the link to join the Zoom meeting on January 15

A Church at Work

Church Council Corner

The church Council met on Tuesday, December 13, to review a preliminary 2023 Budget. We also held the Annual Council Christmas Potluck.

The next church council meeting will be held on Tuesday, **January 10**, 2023, 8:15 p.m. in the Courtyard Room.

St. Michael's Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 12:15-1:45 p.m.

Save the date for the St. Michael's Annual Congregational Meeting. This year we plan to return to a simple lunch in the fellowship hall after the 11:00 a.m. worship service (around 12:00 p.m.) with the congregational meeting to begin at 12:30 p.m.

Items for this year's Annual meeting include:

- Review of 2022 Program Report
- Review of 2022 Financials
- Approval of 2023 Budget
- Constitutional updates that allow for co-pastor model (see page 13)
- Update on Sanctuary Wall Project & Property Items
- Report from Feasibility Study and prospective Capital Campaign (see information below)
- Election of Council positions

Annual Meeting Agenda Items

1. Capital Campaign

After the receiving the positive results of the recent feasibility study, the church council has decided bring a capital campaign to the congregational meeting on January 29th to proceed with a three-year campaign starting winter of 2023.

Based on the feasibility study findings, recommendations from Steve Olson of Olson Advancement for a three-year capital campaign are:

- **Caring for our Church Home.** Fully funding the Sanctuary Project to fix water infiltration in sanctuary and walls. Initially, this will be financed through an investment from congregational reserves and a loan from Thrivent Financial (previously approved by congregation). Capital Campaign funds would be used to replenish reserves and to reduce the principal of the loan. The campaign would also allow for the creation of a deferred maintenance fund to be used for future maintenance projects for other parts of the facility and grounds.
- **Improving Accessibility & Hospitality.** Providing accessible and adequate restrooms near the sanctuary, with a new entrance to provide better energy efficiency and accessibility. In addition, a new entrance will increase gathering space in the Narthex area. Project cost is being researched, as this does not include major expansion of the building footprint, as previously considered.
- **Caring for our Neighbors.** 10% of campaign gifts will be shared with two ministry partners. These gifts are for special campaigns over and above our annual benevolence support:
 - Iglesia Luterana, Guatemala construction project and partnership
 - Planting Hope St. Paul Area Synod Campaign

The council will present further details of these goals in the Annual Meeting information packet. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Ali or Pastor Brad.

2. Recommended Constitutional Changes

As St. Michael's continues to discern next steps in creating a co-pastorate, P&A has met with Bishop Patricia Lull. One step is to update our congregational constitution. Below are the changes recommended by the Personnel & Administration Committee and Executive Committee for approval at the Annual Congregational meeting on January 29, 2023.

- C8.05.01 c. Prior to removing any inactive member, the Congregation Council or the **Senior Pastor** shall make... *recommendation to strike Senior; and add (s) after Pastor to read: **Prior to removing any inactive member, the Congregation Council or the Pastor(s) shall make...***
- C10.02 A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the **lead** pastor... *recommendation to strike the word lead, to read: **A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of this congregation...***
- C13.05.09 There shall be a Personnel and Administration Committee which will, under the direction of the **Senior Pastor**, oversee... *recommendation to strike Senior; and add (s) after Pastor, to read: **There shall be a Personnel and Administration Committee which will, under the direction of the Pastor(s), oversee...***
- C13.07 The pastor(s) of this congregation shall have voice and vote in all committees and boards of this congregation, except for the Audit Committee, Nominating Committee, and Call Committee. The pastor(s) shall have voice but no vote in the Nominating Committee. In the case of a Call Committee formed to call a new **associate pastor**, the **senior** pastor shall have voice but no vote in such a Call Committee. *Recommendation to strike associate pastor and say "rostered leader" and to strike senior pastor and add any rostered leaders on staff, to read: **In the case of a Call committee formed to call a new rostered leader, any rostered leaders on staff shall have voice but not vote in such a Call Committee.***



2022 Budget Financial Update

Overview and

	November Actual	November Budget	YTD Actual	Annual Budget
Income	\$78,903	\$63,962	\$730,013	\$874,359*
Expenses	\$67,146	\$67,520	\$740,629	\$874,359
Net Balance	\$11,456	\$-3,558	\$-10,616	\$0

*At the Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022, the congregation approved use of Reserve Funds (the carryover income from 2021) to balance budget, if needed at the end of the year. This is included in the Annual Approved budget of \$874,359.

A Place for You

Stewardship packets were sent out in November. Inside you will find your annual pledge card. These cards help Church leadership establish our estimated income for each budget year.

The amount on the pledge card does not represent a guarantee or contract to give an amount but a personal, and ultimately, communal goal to sustain the ongoing mission, vision and values of St. Michael's. We know that circumstances often change, which could affect the amount you are able to give, but a returned pledge card helps the council and committees form our annual budget.



By completing and returning your pledge card, you help us create the most accurate budget possible. If you are enrolled in Simply Giving, automatic electronic contributions, (I encourage you to do so!), staff will update your electronic contribution automatically based on the information you supply, or you can login and change the information yourself.

Thank you for your continued generosity, commitment, and community!
Sincerely, *Brian Cihacek, Treasurer*

Qualified Charitable Distributions

Did you know? Money from an individual retirement account (IRA) can be donated to charity. What's more, if you've reached the age where you need to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your traditional IRAs, you may be able to not pay taxes on them by donating that money to charity. That's good news if this is something you're keen on doing. This tax break was made permanent in 2015.

A distribution from a traditional IRA normally incurs taxes since the account holder didn't pay taxes on the money when they made the contribution. But account holders aged 70½ or older who make a contribution directly from a traditional IRA to a qualified charity can donate up to \$100,000 without it being considered a taxable distribution. The deduction effectively lowers the donor's adjusted gross income (AGI).

Talk to your financial planner to review whether this might be the right fit for you.

St. Michael's has, over the last several years, learned from several households that this has been a great way for them to support the church financially.

Year End Giving

As many receive the newsletter at the end of December, a quick reminder that if you are making a 2022 end-of-year gift to St. Michael's please place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church by December 31st. All checks must be dated December 31, 2022, or earlier.

The tellers will be making the final deposit for 2022 on Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support of St. Michael's!

Worship Leaders and Volunteers Needed

Looking ahead at 2023, there are a wide variety of OPEN Worship Leader spot! Check SignUp Genius for opportunities to volunteer for: **Ushers, Lectors, Communion Deacons, and 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".

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 February *Messenger*?

The *Messenger* submission deadline is Friday, January 20, 2022.

St. Michael's Staff Directory

St. Michael's Lutheran

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Weekend Custodian