



St. Michael's Lutheran Church
Stewardship • 2020

THANKS GIVING

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in who this world rejoices.*

“Now thank we all our God” ELW 839

This hymn proclaims God has provided many good gifts in our lives, and we respond with a song of thanksgiving – a language spoken through our hearts, hands and voices. Most often we sing this hymn in close proximity to the Thanksgiving holiday. Yet it is powerful to recognize that each day and each moment is a gift from God. We can give thanks in all that we do, in all that we are, at all times.

Gathering in worship, the ushers bring forward the offering and symbols of the bread and cup. In doing this, this congregation is enacting an ancient witness of taking ordinary symbols of our labor, our living, and the gifts of creation, thanking God, and blessing what each contributes to be a shared gift and holy witness in the community and world. In this act of thanksgiving, the everyday gifts we offer and what can seem like the very “ordinary” lives we live are made holy.

This stewardship season we honor that the language of thanksgiving is a holy language; we recognize the way we give thanks to God is as unique as each person.

- Feeding meals to the greater community at Loaves & Fishes
- Lifting voice in praise with the church choir
- Serving on a committee or council
- Teaching and mentoring children or youth
- Giving thanks by making a financial investment in the church for the sake of this community and the larger world.
 - Making a tithe in offering (giving 10% of income)
 - Increasing household giving by 2% to keep up with the cost of inflation
 - Signing up for electronic giving to ensure their gifts are regular
 - Including St. Michael's in estate planning and legacy giving

As you read through this book you will see the ways to give thanks are endless!

No matter the ways we give thanks and give back, what we hold in common is that our thanksgiving is in response to the incredible gifts of God we see, experience, and know. We offer our gifts together trusting that who we are, what we do, and how we give, becomes transformational.

In this season, we invite you to pause and reflect on the blessings in your life, and how you can offer your unique voice in giving thanks. Together, let us share the blessings of our lives for the sake of the people and the world that **God loves so much! Thanks be to God!**

Pastor Brad and Pastor Ali



Fellowship



"Food is necessary. Shared food is a joy. Preparing food to share is a privilege. With the privilege comes the realization that food is often central to community building, be it family, friends, church, or reaching out to others. I appreciate the opportunity to participate."

-George Beebe

I'm thankful for St. Michael's because of the incredibly friendly atmosphere that surrounds me when I walk through the doors. The familiar feeling of saying hello to familiar faces in this faith community is so nice to have - especially when the rest of my life isn't always so dependable - and it's something that I really look forward to each week.

-Emily Breuch



“Sometimes we forget to give thanks for the things we have around us that tend to go unnoticed. There’s a birdfeeder in the courtyard that was given as a memorial. I appreciate that it’s a lifeline for many of the bird population around St. Michael’s. By seeing that the feeder is filled and doing its job is my way of respecting the family’s intentions. Roland had taken care of the feeder for years, then the question of what would happen after he left came up. It seemed like a no brainer for me to take that project under my wing – so to speak.”

-Lyle Jacobson

“We are so thankful for St. Michael’s, a centrally located and valuable part of Roseville. When you invite someone to your home, you want to look your best; St. Michael’s is our church home and we are delighted to be able to help present a welcoming view by keeping the four planters by the outside doors, as well as the one in the courtyard supplied with seasonal flowers. We hope everyone enjoys the results.”

-Sue Jacobson

I give thanks by **CARING FOR CREATION**

“I have enjoyed working with the Green Team at St. Michael’s because it has connected me with others in the congregation who do the work of caring for Creation. We have much to be thankful for—an abundant and beautiful world for all living things to share.”

-Thor Wagstrom



“Ushering gives me the opportunity to supply a simple but valuable service and to welcome others to worship. It is fun, invigorating, positive and helpful. I always walk away with a warm fuzzy feeling knowing I have helped bring a smile to someone's face as they enter worship. They will know we are Christians by our love.”

-Mike Gregory



“The reason I play music for St. Michael's is that I love to play and it makes me happy. I use music to praise God and I share that praise with the congregation.”

-Eli Griggs-LeRoux



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What is a pledge?

A pledge is an estimate of annual financial support. Pledging allows the church leadership to plan and budget for mission and programs effectively. Pledges maybe fulfilled throughout the year in intervals of the donor's choosing - one-time, quarterly, monthly, or weekly.

Make an impact with your pledge!

\$3 a week provides baptism materials for five children this year.

\$125 a month builds our connection with our sister church in Cimiento, Guatemala.

\$1,000 a month pays our electric bill for the year.

\$3,400 a year allows for a fully staffed nursery.

\$6,500 a year provides Sunday school and confirmation curriculum and supplies.

\$11,500 a year covers the annual Habitat for Humanity Build with Holy Hammers.



where your FINANCIAL SUPPORT goes

In 2019 St. Michael's spending (Budgeted & Dedicated Funds) will be approximately \$840,000.

38.3%

Gather

- Caring for our Church Home
- Communications & Administration
- Welcome & Hospitality

Imagine...

What if we could create a welcome center for visitors and install accessible bathrooms by the sanctuary?



16.4%

Send

Supporting our mission partners:

- Saint Paul Area Synod
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
- ELCA World Hunger
- Lutheran World Relief & Disaster Response
- Keystone Community Services/Food Shelf
- Luther Crest Bible Camp
- Lutheran Campus Ministries Twin Cities
- Guatemala Partnership
- Habitat for Humanity
- Saint Paul Council of Churches
- Meals on Wheels
- Global Health Ministries
- Union Gospel Mission
- Roseville School District Foundation
- Northeast Youth & Family Services

45.3%

Nurture

- Worship
- Music
- Education
- Fellowship

Imagine...

What if we had a space for gathering before and after worship that doesn't interfere with adult education?

Did you know?

If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can give a gift directly from your IRA to St. Michael's. While you will not receive an income-tax deduction, you will not pay taxes on any distributions made to St. Michael's. A gift from your IRA also reduces your taxable income, which could help reduce your Medicare premiums and the amount of Social Security benefits that are taxable. Contact your IRA plan administrator to request that a qualified charitable distribution be made directly to St. Michael's!

Imagine...

What if we could help solve the affordable housing crisis in our community?

GENEROSITY CHALLENGE – 56% of St. Michael's households support the ministry of the church financially. Help us increase the number of households giving at St. Michael's by pledging or starting your gift today!

- Number of Households at St. Michael's in 2019: 364
- Number of Households Pledging in 2019: 128
- Number of Households Giving in 2019: 204



Caring Ministries



"I've learned that when you visit an old friend you both come away so grateful for friendship."

-Wally Northrup, member of Befrienders Ministry





Education



“Preschool aged children are my favorite! They have honest hearts and minds and walk through the world like little sponges, soaking up all that they encounter. If I can fill them up with love and kindness in the time that I’m with them, I hope they will carry that with them for the day and beyond. I see that happen when our kids can’t wait to share their accomplishments and even their treats with family and friends.”
-Cristy Buss Murray

I give thanks by **MENTORING**

“Acting as a confirmation mentor has been a joy! Our young people have great insight and vision for faith in the world. When we as adults show up for our young people and provide intentional support we demonstrate that church is a community where they belong and are loved. It has also been a great opportunity to develop connections with other adult mentors, which similarly builds my own sense of community at church.”

-Amelia Cihacek





Outreach



We give thanks by
**SERVING AT
LOAVES
+ FISHES**

“The accompaniment I have grown to treasure over the years of my involvement with our Guatemala Partnership is not limited to that with my brothers and sisters in Christ in Guatemala; but includes new connections discovered in my community here, bonds between travelers forged on our adventures, and the growing partnership I see between our two congregations.”

-Lisa Koland

“I enjoy working at loaves and fishes. It is a lot of fun and the people are always very nice and are happy about the food.

-Colten Varco

Loaves and Fishes is fun to work at. The people are always happy about the meal and us working so hard.

-Jameson Varco



I give thanks by
ACCOMPANYING





"Through God's grace, my family and I have been fortunate and we are blessed to be able to share this with a wider community. By giving to St Michaels, our financial support is able to reach a greater amount of people than we could ever meet on our own and used in ways that truly make an impact in the lives of others! We also hope that by involving our children in pledging, this instills in them the value of charitable giving as they grow in their faith and independence."

-Alina Cramble



We give thanks by
LEAVING A LEGACY



Welcome Statement

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. **In Christ's love, we welcome you!**

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

We celebrate that God's grace and love is for all people.

Generous Hospitality

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.

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