

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

The Second Sunday in Advent



# SAINT MICHAEL'S

## LUTHERAN CHURCH • LCMS

W I N C H E S T E R  T E X A S

Worship God. | Love One Another. | Serve All People.

700 Frio Street  
Winchester, Texas 78945

Office: 979-242-3444  
Pastor's Cell: 979-966-8036

**Rev. Nate Hill – Pastor**  
**Margie Clifton – Church Secretary**  
**Mark McClain – Minister of Music**  
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## **A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS:**

Welcome to Saint Michael's Lutheran Church! We are a historic congregation committed to continuing the mission of Jesus Christ in our community. We are very excited to have you worshiping the Lord with us this morning. You are always welcome in our church! Here are a few helpful things to know about Saint Michael's:

- Our beautiful and historic church building was built in 1906. Unfortunately, this means that it was not built with restrooms. Restrooms are located in our education building next door.
- A changing table for infants is located in classroom 4 in the education building.
- During our worship service, attendance books will be passed across the pews. Please take a moment to register your presence with us in the book and include your address and phone number so we can follow up with you in the future.
- Our pastor, Rev. Nate Hill, is always willing to meet with you to answer any questions that you might have about our church and beliefs or to be of help in any way that he is able. Please introduce yourself to him this morning. He will be thrilled to meet you!

We hope that you find Saint Michael's to be a place where you feel at home as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

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## **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Saint Michael's Lutheran Church exists to worship God, love one another, and serve all people according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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### **DIVINE SERVICE SETTING TWO WITH COMMUNION**

<b>Prelude</b>	Selected Music
<b>Ringing of the Church Bell</b>	Ushers
<b>Welcome and Greeting</b>	Pastor
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	<i>"When All the World Was Cursed"</i> LSB #346

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The sign of the cross ✙ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)*

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*1 John 1:8-9*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*(John 20:19-23)*

**C** Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Read Together

*Psalm 105:4-8; antiphon: Isaiah 40:3b*

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!  
Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,  
 O offspring of Abraham, his servant,  
 children of Jacob, his chosen ones!  
 He is the Lord our God;  
 his judgments are in all the earth.  
 He remembers his covenant forever,  
 the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.  
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son*  
*and to the Holy Spirit;*  
*as it was in the beginning,*  
*is now, and will be forever. Amen.*  
 In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

## Kyrie

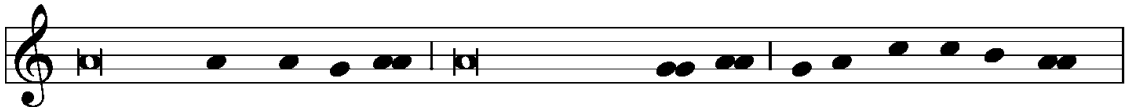
Mark 10:47



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



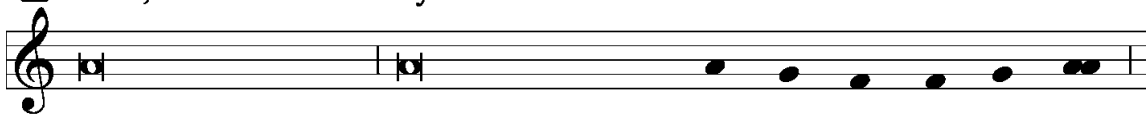
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



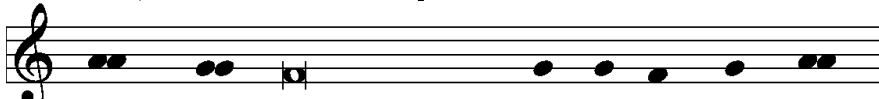
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Hymn of Praise

*"This is the Feast"*

*Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9*



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



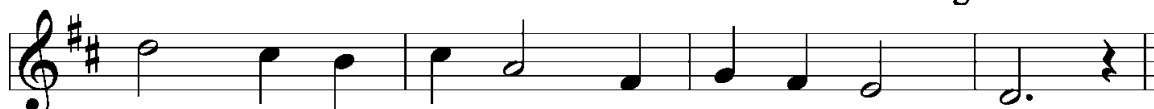
**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God,

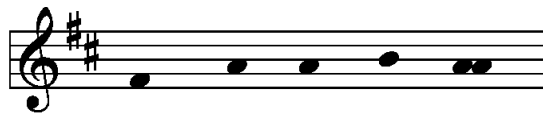


for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.



## Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

- <sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
- <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,

and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—  
of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the royal son!

<sup>2</sup>May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice!

<sup>3</sup>Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness!

<sup>4</sup>May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor!

<sup>5</sup>May they fear you while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

<sup>6</sup>May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth!



<sup>7</sup>In his days may the righteous flourish,  
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

## Epistle Reading

Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name.”

<sup>10</sup>And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

<sup>11</sup>And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him.”

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse

*John 6:68*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



## Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.



<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Children's Message**

Pastor

**Hymn of the Day**

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

LSB #344

**Sermon**

*"Preparing the Way of the Lord"*  
*Matthew 3:1-12*

Rev. Nate Hill

**Nicene Creed**

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and  
the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

**Offering**     *(Please sign the attendance books as they are passed)*     Ushers

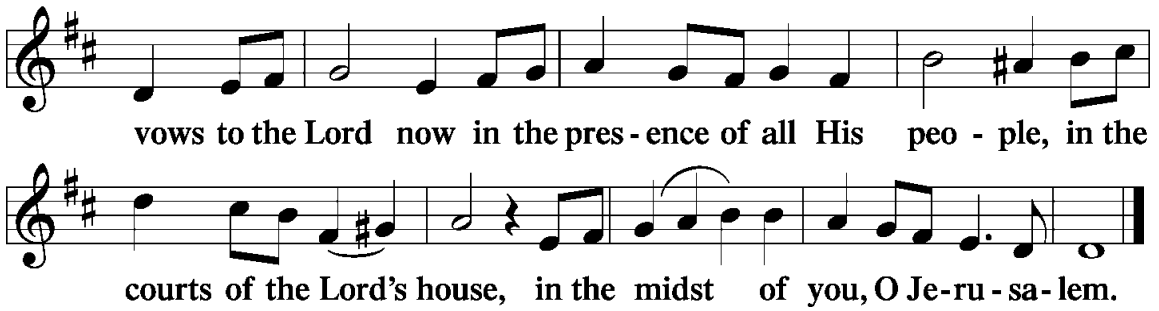
*If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online,  
you may do so at [www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give](http://www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give)*



## Offertory

Musical notation for the Offertory hymn, consisting of five staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The hymn is a traditional offertory tune, often used during the Eucharist.

What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to  
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



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### *Important Information about Holy Communion Today*

Today, we will celebrate Holy Communion, where Jesus Christ offers us his true body and true blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. This Sacrament is also an expression of the unity in faith, doctrine, and practice of those who receive it together.

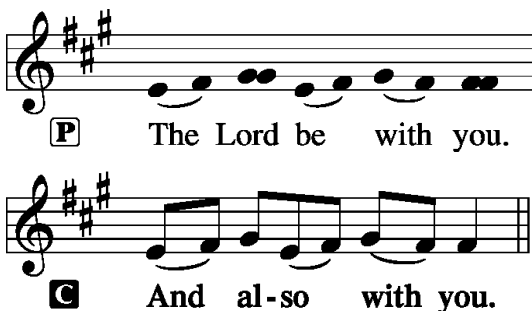
If you are a confirmed member in good standing of this or another LCMS congregation, we welcome you to commune with us today. However, if you are uncertain about our beliefs and practices surrounding Holy Communion, we ask that you refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please let Pastor Nate know. He would be happy to meet with you to talk about the blessings of church membership and Holy Communion!

For those who are sensitive to alcohol, the cups in the center of the communion tray contain water with one drop of wine added.

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## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **Preface**





**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

*(Colossians 3:1)*



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

*(Psalm 136)*

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



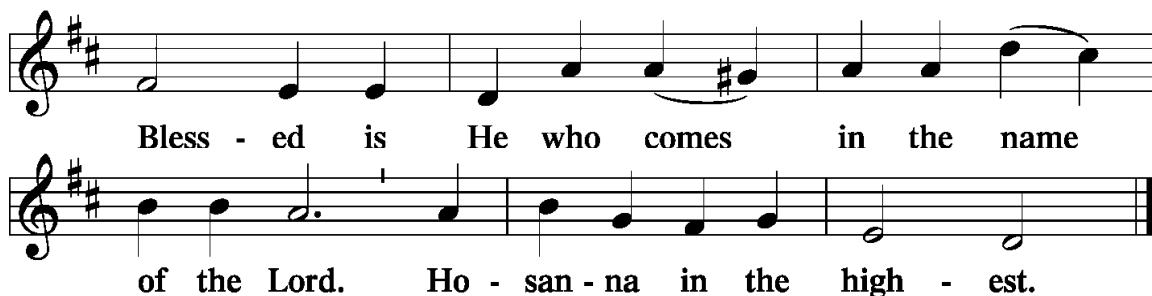
**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,**

but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

*Matthew 6:9-13*

## The Words of Our Lord

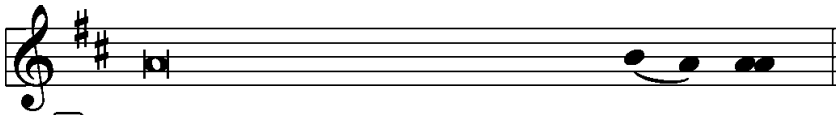
**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24;  
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

## Pax Domini

*John 20:19*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

*John 1:29*



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the





sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of  
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Distribution Hymns

*"What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"*

LSB #342

*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

LSB #359

*"Sing Praise to the God of Israel"*

LSB #936

## Post-Communion Canticle "Thank the Lord"



Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what  
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re - calls His prom - is -  
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

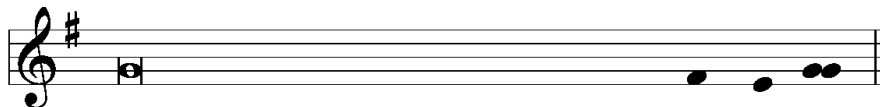
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.



**C** A - men.

## Announcements

Pastor

## Closing Hymn

*"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"*

LSB #347

## Postlude

Selected Music

## PRAYERS AT SAINT MICHAEL'S

### MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

- Melinda Bennett – *Bill Karisch's Friend*
- Kourtney Burton
- Erland Carlson – *Leann McClain's Brother*
- James Carr – *Buddy Smith's Coworker*
- Jeannie Doyle – *Larry Herzog's Daughter*
- Charlene Franke
- RC Franke
- Myrtle Friemel – *Carol Ahlschlager's Friend*
- Marian Fritsche
- Nellie Gonzalez
- Evelyn Haschke
- Jennifer Harper – *Charles & Rose Lehmann's Daughter*
- Delores Karisch
- Morgan Ray Karisch
- Evelyn Kasper – *Bill Karisch's Mother*
- Thelma Kieschnik
- John Kocurek – *Irma & Daniel Gersch's Brother-in-Law*
- Audrey Koenning
- Theresa Krause – *Diana Roeber's Friend*
- Mary Lehmann
- Rose Lehmann
- Kevin Margeson – *Kurtis Hankemeier's Brother*
- Dianna Mitschke – *Karen Robbins' Mother*
- Dwayne Patterson – *James Franke Family's Friend*
- Mary Patterson – *James Franke Family's Friend*
- Lillian Pietsch
- Victoria Pope – *Mark McClain's Friend*
- Layne Schramm – *Thelma Kieschnik's Grandson*
- Marie Schulz
- Laverne Schulze
- Catherine Trevino – *Buddy Smith's Coworker's Daughter*
- Amy Wagner

### SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES:

- Christopher Brand – US Navy – Great Lakes, Illinois
- Caleb Burton – US Army – Fort Carson, Colorado
- Warren Evans – US Army – Fort Bragg, North Carolina
- Jake Hagood – US Army – Fort Hood, Texas
- Kaleb Pyle – US Army – Fort Bliss, Texas
- Dylan Robbins – USMC – Newport, Rhode Island
- Ryan Spray – US Air Force – San Antonio, Texas
- Byron Taylor – US Army – Fort Knox, Kentucky
- Erik Vallejo – Texas National Guard – United States Border

### MISSIONARIES:

- Julie Aftab – People of the Book Lutheran Outreach – Houston, TX
- John & Jenn Wolf – LCMS Missionaries – Kenya

## **THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL'S:**

### **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:00am – Worship Service with Communion – *Sanctuary*
- 10:15am – Bible Study – *Education Building*
- 10:15am – Christmas Program Practice – *Sanctuary*

### **Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

- 7:00pm – Board of Elders – *Education Building*
- 7:00pm – WACA – *Zilss Hall*

### **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

- 7:00pm – Board of Trustees – *Education Building*

### **Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:30am – Bible Class – *Education Building*
- 7:00pm – Advent Midweek Service – *Sanctuary*

### **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

- 7:00pm – Board of Missions – *Education Building*

### **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:00am – Worship Service – *Sanctuary*
- 10:15am – Bible Study – *Education Building*
- 10:15am – Christmas Program Practice – *Sanctuary*
- 1:00pm – 4-H Meeting – *Education Building*

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**Explore Epiphany Sunday:** “Explore Epiphany Sunday” is an initiative by the pastors and congregations involved in supporting Epiphany-Bastrop to encourage their members to regularly visit Epiphany. The intent is to show their support for the ministry and serve as a sort of critical mass as we invite others and grow. What a wonderful encouragement you can be for the congregation at Epiphany – Bastrop! Saint Michael's is assigned to the first Sunday of every month for our “Explore Epiphany Sunday”. If you would like to participate, please plan on attending our service at Saint Michael's and then skipping the Sunday Bible Study to instead caravan with our other members to Epiphany to attend their service which takes place at 11:30!

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**Thanksgiving Eve Food Offering:** This offering yielded 269 lbs. of food items that were donated to AMEN Food Pantry in La Grange. Thank you for your participation! What a blessing!

**Thank you!** The family of James Kipp would like to extend our sincere appreciation to St. Michael's for all the support shown to our family on the unexpected loss of James. The outpouring of love, prayers, and food was so very appreciated. We especially thank Pastor Nate for the words of comfort and being with us during this difficult time. Blessings to all, The Kipp family

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**Rehearsals for Children's Christmas Eve Program:** At this year's Christmas Eve Service, we will once again be blessed to enjoy a program put on by the children of our congregation. If you would like your child or grandchild to participate, please plan on having them attend all rehearsals for the children's program. Rehearsals will take place during the Sunday School Hour each week and began November 20<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a final rehearsal at 6:00pm on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. In order to ensure that the children are well-prepared for their songs and speaking parts, attendance at each of the December rehearsals is mandatory. Please contact Amanda Hart at 979-540-0600 or another member of the Board of Education for more information.

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**Christmas Caroling:** Please make plans to join us for an afternoon of bringing Christmas Joy and Spirit through song to our elderly brothers and sisters in Christ who reside in local care facilities or at their homes. Our annual Christmas Caroling event has been scheduled for Sunday, December 18. We will meet in the Church parking lot at 1:00 PM, and a meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall when we return. If you plan to attend, or have any questions, please contact Roland at 979-966-9397 or Robbie at 979-639-1220, by December 15. HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING!!!!

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**Bingo for Seniors:** Immanuel, Giddings is excited to partner with *A Perfect Way Home Health Care* to offer an opportunity for all seniors in our community to get together for bingo and fellowship. Mark your calendar for the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM at Immanuel's fellowship hall. **We will begin Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.** Everything is provided at no cost, including bingo supplies, prizes, and food. If you need assistance with transportation, please contact the Immanuel church office (979) 542-2918. For all other information you may contact Mrs. Brittany Behrens 979-540-0181.

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**German Advent/Christmas Hymn Sing:** Ebenezer Lutheran Church of Manheim, will be having a German Hymn Song Service – Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00pm. Please join us for this celebration of Christ's birth in German.

Dec. 1, 2022

## **LCRA, BLUEBONNET ELECTRIC CO-OP AWARD \$14,953 GRANT FOR NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

*Winchester church to upgrade community park with updated, safer equipment*



*LCRA and Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative representatives present a \$14,953 grant to Saint Michael's Lutheran Church for new playground equipment at its community park area. The grant is part of LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program. Pictured, from left to right, are: Kate Ramzinski, LCRA Regional Affairs representative; Sherry Murphy, Bluebonnet community and development representative; Mirlyn Griffin, park board and church member; Rev. Nate Hill, pastor; Marcell Prestridge, church president; Mikey Adams, church member; Margaret D. "Meg" Voelter, LCRA Board member; Russell Jurk, Bluebonnet director; Bill Karisch, park board and church member; Darline Kaiser, church member; and Ron Kaiser, church president-elect.*

FAYETTE COUNTY, Texas – A \$14,953 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority and Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative will help a church in Winchester replace outdated playground equipment at a community park and play area.

The Community Development Partnership Program grant, along with \$4,100 in matching funds from the church, will allow Saint Michael's Lutheran Church to improve a park on its land that hosts numerous community events and is open to area residents and visitors.

"We don't have a lot of public resources here in Winchester, so the Saint Michael's Church park is an important place for people to be able to play and gather," said the Rev. Nate Hill, the church's pastor. "If you're driving by, you'll often see children out there playing. The high-quality equipment we'll have will make things safer and more enjoyable for them."

Hill said several organizations in the area, including the Winchester Area Volunteer Fire Department, hold events and activities at the park.

In addition to replacing an old wooden playground structure that had to be torn down because it was unsafe, the church will add rubber mulch and new border trim to replace a sand base and a rotting wooden border trim. The new playground will include a slide, swings, rock-climbing wall and more.

The community grant is one of 46 grants awarded recently through LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program, which helps volunteer fire departments, local governments, emergency responders and nonprofit organizations fund capital improvement projects in LCRA's wholesale electric, water and transmission service areas. The program is part of LCRA's effort to give back to the communities it serves.

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative is one of LCRA's wholesale electric customers and is a partner in the grant program.

Applications for the next round of grants will be accepted in January. More information is available at [lcra.org/cdpp](http://lcra.org/cdpp).

### **About LCRA**

The Lower Colorado River Authority serves customers and communities throughout Texas by managing the lower Colorado River; generating and transmitting electric power; providing a clean, reliable water supply; and offering outdoor adventures at more than 40 parks along the Colorado River from the Texas Hill Country to the Gulf Coast. LCRA and its employees are committed to fulfilling our mission to enhance the quality of life of the Texans we serve through water stewardship, energy and community service. LCRA was created by the Texas Legislature in 1934 and receives no state appropriations. For more information, visit [lcra.org](http://lcra.org).

### **About Bluebonnet**

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative is one of the largest electric cooperatives in Texas and has been serving its members since 1939. Bluebonnet serves more than 122,000 meters and owns and maintains 12,000 miles of power lines, located across more than 3,800 square miles within 14 Central Texas counties. Bluebonnet's service area stretches from Travis County to Washington County, and from Milam County to Gonzales County. For more information about Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, go to [bluebonnet.coop](http://bluebonnet.coop) and follow the co-op on Facebook and Twitter.

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