

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 2023

The Fourth Sunday in Advent



# SAINT MICHAEL'S

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## LUTHERAN CHURCH • LCMS

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

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

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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  
[www.stmichaelswinchester.org](http://www.stmichaelswinchester.org)  
[pastor@stmichaelswinchester.org](mailto:pastor@stmichaelswinchester.org)  
[secretary@stmichaelswinchester.org](mailto:secretary@stmichaelswinchester.org)

## **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 worshipping 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**

<b>Prelude</b>	Selected Music
<b>Ringing of the Church Bell</b>	Ushers
<b>Welcome and Greeting</b>	Pastor
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	<i>"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"</i> LSB #357

## 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.*

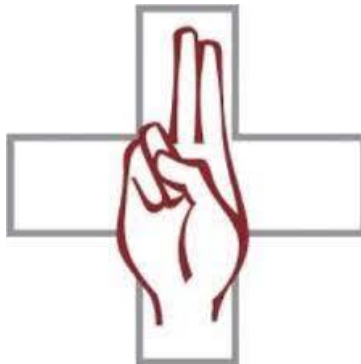
**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**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 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b*

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.  
The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son*

*and to the Holy Spirit;*

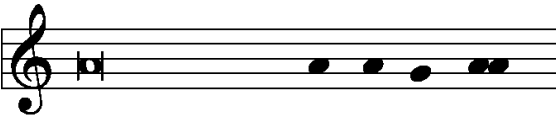
*as it was in the beginning,*

*is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

# Kyrie

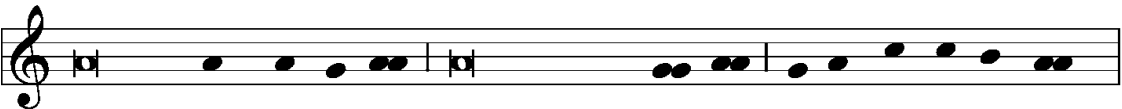
*Mark 10:47*



**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.



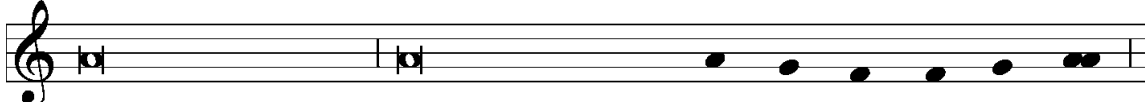
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



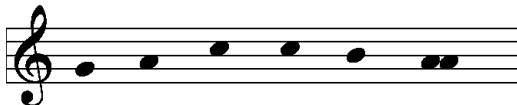
and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



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



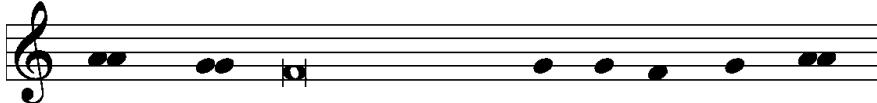
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



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

## "Gloria in Excelsis"



**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



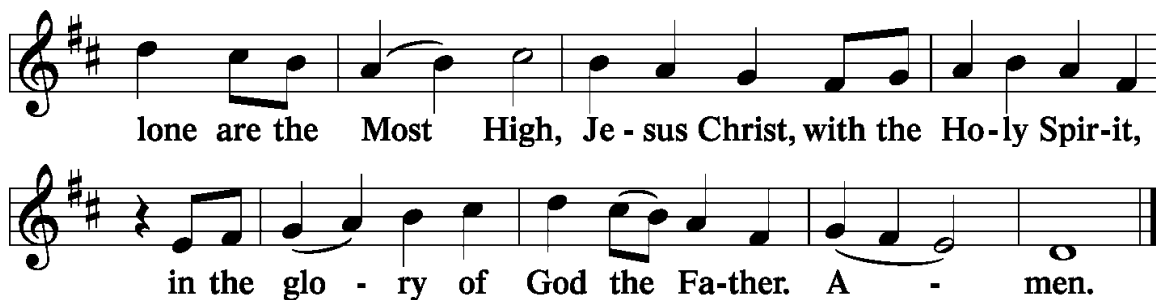
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the

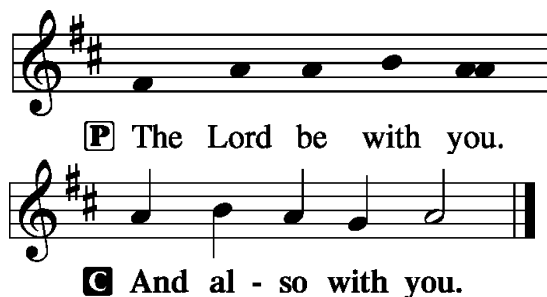


Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-



## Salutation and Collect of the Day

*2 Timothy 4:22*



**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## Old Testament Reading

*2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel,

saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”<sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, “Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

...

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 89:1-5, 19-29

<sup>1</sup>I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

<sup>2</sup>For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;  
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

<sup>3</sup>You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:

<sup>4</sup>I will establish your offspring forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.”

<sup>5</sup>Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

<sup>19</sup>Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:  
“I have granted help to one who is mighty;  
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

<sup>20</sup>I have found David, my servant;  
with my holy oil I have anointed him,

<sup>21</sup>so that my hand shall be established with him;  
my arm also shall strengthen him.

<sup>22</sup>The enemy shall not outwit him;  
the wicked shall not humble him.

<sup>23</sup>I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down those who hate him.

<sup>24</sup>My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,  
and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

<sup>25</sup>I will set his hand on the sea  
and his right hand on the rivers.

<sup>26</sup>He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’

<sup>27</sup>And I will make him the firstborn,  
the highest of the kings of the earth.

<sup>28</sup>My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,  
and my covenant will stand firm for him.

<sup>29</sup>I will establish his offspring forever  
and his throne as the days of the heavens.

## **Epistle Reading**

Romans 16:25-27

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

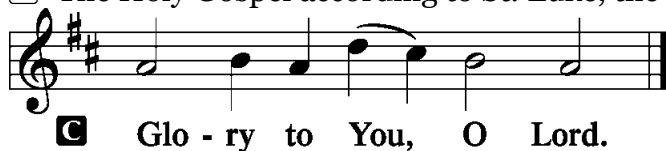


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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



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

**Children's Message**

Pastor

**Hymn of the Day** *"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"*

LSB #356

**Sermon** *"Let It Be to Me According to Your Word"*  
*Luke 1:26-38*

Rev. Nate Hill

**Apostles' Creed**

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life **✝** everlasting. Amen.

**Prayer of the Church**

*(1 Timothy 2:1-4)*

## 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

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

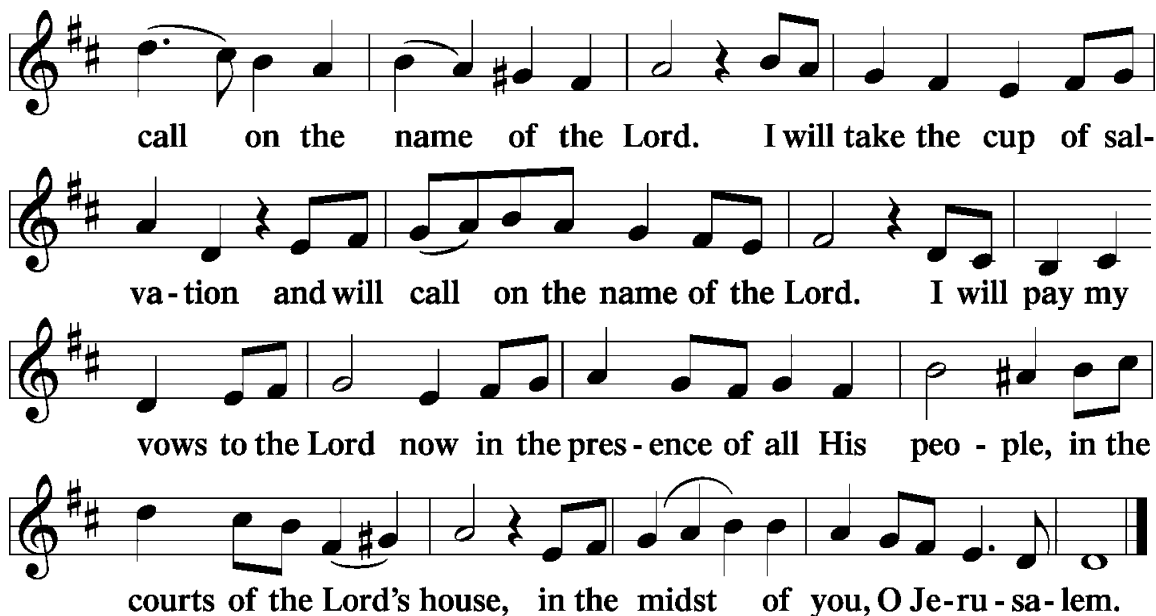
*If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online,  
you may do so at [www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give](http://www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give)*



## Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

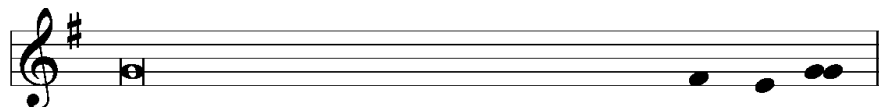
**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e - fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



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  
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

## 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 ✠ give you peace.



**C** A - men.

## Announcements

Pastor

## Closing Hymn

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

LSB #338

## Postlude

Selected Music

## PRAYERS AT SAINT MICHAEL'S

### MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

- Melinda Bennett – *Bill Karisch's Friend*
- Sheila Bojorquez – *Charles Lehmann's Daughter*
- Debra Bradley – *Garry Synatschek's Mother*
- Kourtney Burton
- Erland Carlson – *Leann McClain's Brother*
- Sue Doepner – *Daniel and Karen Kilian's Friend*
- Charlene Franke
- Myrtle Friemel – *Carol Ahlschlager's Friend*
- Ivan Fritsche
- Sam Gibbs
- Nellie Gonzalez
- Gavon Grayson – *Glenn and Stacy Zoch's Friend*
- Larry Hernandez – *Marceil Prestridge's Son-in Law*
- Nicole Hernandez – *Marceil Prestridge's Daughter*
- Jerry Hielscher
- Delores Karisch
- Morgan Ray Karisch
- Evelyn Kasper – *Bill Karisch's Mother*
- Thelma Kieschnik
- Audrey Koenning
- Theresa Krause – *Diana Roeber's Friend*
- Mary Lehmann
- John Lievsay, Jr – *Kelly Franke's Brother*
- Kevin Margeson – *Kurtis Hankemeier's Brother*
- Karen McDougall – *Mark McClain's Sister*
- Dianna Mitschke – *Karen Robbins' Mother*
- Kolton Montgomery
- Janet Murphy – *Richard Davis' Sister-in-Law*
- Dwayne Patterson – *James Franke Family's Friend*
- Mary Patterson – *James Franke Family's Friend*
- Lillian Pietsch
- Victoria Pope – *Mark McClain's Friend*
- Marceil Prestridge
- Layne Schramm – *Thelma Kieschnik's Grandson*
- Marie Schulz
- Raymond Schulz
- Laverne Schulze
- Barbara Spence
- Amy Wagner
- Angeline Zoch

### SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES:

- Christopher Brand – US Navy – Great Lakes, Illinois
- Caleb Burton – US Army – Fort Carson, Colorado
- Manuel Comancho – US Air Force – Serving in Israel – *Irma Gersch's Friend*
- 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 – Jacksonville, North Carolina
- Ryan Spray – US Air Force – San Antonio, Texas
- Erik Vallejo – Texas National Guard – United States Border

### MISSIONARIES:

- Julie Aftab – People of the Book Lutheran Outreach – Houston, TX
- Abba's House – LCMS Ministry to Refugees – Cypress, TX -  
<https://abbashousetexas.com/>

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

### **Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – The Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve**

- 9:00am – Worship Service – *Sanctuary*
- 5:45pm – Arrival for Program Kids – *Education Building*
- 6:00pm – Christmas Eve Service – *Sanctuary*

### **Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day**

- 9:00am – Christmas Day Service – *Sanctuary*

### **Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

- 2:00pm – Young @ Heart – *Zilss Hall*

### **Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

- 6:00pm – Board of Finance – *Education Building*

### **Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Eve**

- 9:00am – Worship Service – *Sanctuary*
- 10:15am – Sunday School – *Education Building*
- 10:15am – Christmas Tree Cleanup - *Sanctuary*
- 7:00pm – New Year's Eve Service with Communion – *Sanctuary*

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**Flower Chart:** The flower chart is up in the back of the church. Please feel free to start filling it in. You may call Margie Clifton in the church office if you need her to fill it in for you.

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**Casserole Crew:** Pat Karisch is on for the month of December. If you know of someone with a need for a meal in the congregation or community, please contact Pat at (281)682-2841.

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**Poinsettias:** If you purchased a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary, please plan to take it home after the service **on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

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**Christmas Caroling Thank You!** Thank you to all who were able to join us in caroling to the congregation's shut-ins. What a joy to share the blessing of Christ's birth in song!

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**Christmas Season Services at Mt. Calvary:** Let's celebrate Christmas in its season. Pastor Kaspar will be serving a simple Divine Service at Mt. Calvary, La Grange with the Lord's Supper each night at 6pm from Dec 26 - Dec 30. Please join us once or twice to hear, receive, and sing some carols together.

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**Installation of Officers and Board Members:** On Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, during our Worship Service, Saint Michael's Officers and Board Members will be installed. If you are newly elected or continuing your service, please make plans to attend.

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**All Boards Meeting and Training:** Our annual All Boards Meeting and Training will take place Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in the Education Building. All board members and officers should plan on attending this meeting. At the meeting we will go over everyone's duties and responsibilities and will also set calendar items for the year.

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Please join us  
for the  
installation of

Reverend  
E.B. Holschuh

as the Sole Pastor of  
Epiphany Lutheran Church  
of Bastrop

Saturday, January 6, 2024  
1 o'clock in the afternoon\*

Bastrop State Park Refectory

Light reception to follow

RSVP [secretary@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:secretary@epiphanybastrop.org)

\*Participating clergy are asked to vest in white  
& arrive thirty minutes prior to the service.



Our tradition at Christmas is to place poinsettias in the church. The beauty of the poinsettias set the church ablaze in praise and glory of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

THE POINSETTIAS ARE PLACED IN THE CHURCH BY:

**Jerry and Jenny Althaus** for the blessing of children and grandchildren.

**Margaret and Tom Atkins** for their blessings.

**The Bamsch Family** in loving memory of Harriet and Alford Zoch.

**Denise, Glenn Becker, Trenton, and Cameron** in memory of Rose Lehmann (Mom and Moe) for her first Christmas in heaven.

**Marc Brand** in memory of his father, Rev. Adolph Brand; mother, Inez Brand; brother, Timothy Brand; and sister, Rhoda House.

**The Deters Family** in loving memory of Judy Hielscher.

**Jenny, Josey, and Casey Fajkus** in loving memory of Josie and James Zoch, Frances and Melvin Zoch, Caroline and Mervin Dube, Rita and Emil Fajkus, and Evelyn and Louis Svoboda.

**Iris Franke, Gina Sanders, and Coleen Smiley** in memory of James Franke, RC Franke, and Tillie and Traugott Franke.

**Debbie Graham** in memory of her mother, sister, and brother.

**Mirlyn Griffin** for God's many blessings.

**Cindy and Scott Hielscher** in thankfulness for family during the season of Christmas blessings including their family already in heaven celebrating.

**Pastor Nate and Candice Hill** in thanksgiving to God for St. Michael's and their boys, Jack and Carter.

**Ron and Darline Kaiser** in loving memory of their parents, Lorine and Martin Kaiser, Frieda and EA Lehmann; and brother-in-law Herbert Moerbe.

**Bill and Pat Karisch** in memory of Karisch, Klein, Bammel, and Noack families enjoying eternity with our Savior.

**Mildred Kasper** in loving memory of my husband, Elgin and son, Gary.

**Karen and Daniel Kilian** in honor of their children, grandchildren, and in memory of loved ones.

**The Kipp, Cave, and Stewart Families** in loving memory of their father, Marvin Kipp.

**Ronnie Kleiber** in loving memory of Mattie.

**Elna Koenning** in memory of Delton Koenning and daughter-in-law, Christi Koenning.

**Charles Lehmann** in memory of Rose Lehmann, Edna and Willie Lehmann, and Annie and Felix Petrash.

**Roger and Dorothy Loewe** in honor of the Loewe and Peschke families.

**Laura Matthijetz** in memory of her husband, Max.

**Mark and Leann McClain** to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mark's parents, Bill and Betty McClain; and siblings, Richard McClain and Mary Castle.

**Katrina and Travis Miertschin** in memory of Kat's parents, Leonor and Marcelino Savcedo, Sr. and Travis' parents, Violet and Leon Miertschin.

**Jeanette Mitschke** in memory of Rudie Lee Mitschke, Rudy and Wanda Mitschke, and Otto and Alma Kappler.

**Evelyn Parker** in memory of loved ones.

**Betty Richter and Donald Noack** in memory of their loved ones.

**Wayne and Peggy Smith** in celebration of Jesus' birth.

**Garry and Cassandra Synatschk** in loving memory of Garry Synatschk, Sr. and Shannon Synatschk, Martin and Alma Kilian, and Jackie Clem.

**Doug and Sharon Teinert** in memory of Milton Koenning and in honor of Audrey Koenning. In memory of Delton Koenning and in honor of Elna Koenning. In memory of Elgin and Gary Kasper and in honor of Mildred Kasper.

**The Watts Family** in loving memory of Tammi Watts by Kirt Watts and Jordan and Shawn Davis, Parker Jo and Chandler Rae. In loving memory of Esther and Milton "Shorty" Pampell by children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren.

**Angeline and Ali Zoch** in loving memory of Elmo Zoch.

**Barry and Sandy Zoch** in memory of their parents that have passed.

**Missy Zoch** in loving memory of her Papa and Memaw.

