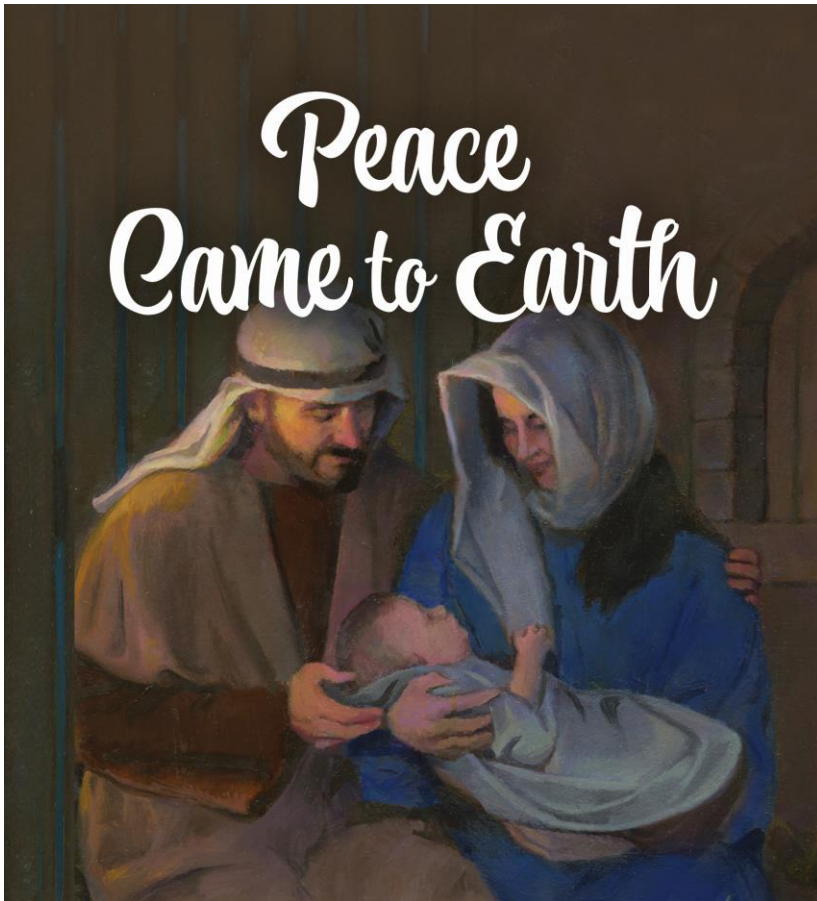


Sunday, December 24th 2023

Christmas Eve Service



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
pastor@stmichaelswinchester.org
secretary@stmichaelswinchester.org



SAINT MICHAEL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH • LCMS
WINCHESTER ✦ TEXAS

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 evening. 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 evening. 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!

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.

Peace Came to Earth A Children's Christmas Service

Welcome to Worship

+ Preparation +

The Processional Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB #379 v. 1-3

The Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

P For to us a child is born,

C to us a son is given;

P and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

C and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

P Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

C Prince of Peace.

Christmas Message

Rev. Nate Hill

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*



THE MESSAGE PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN

+ The Promise of Peace +

Emma: In the beginning, God created a perfect world filled with stars, mountains, valleys, and animals. There was no sickness, no pain, and no death. The people God had made lived at peace with the animals, with each other, and with God.

Aden: Then one day, the people were tempted to doubt God's Word and to question the gifts He had already given them. They disobeyed God and took what God had commanded them not to take, bringing sin into the world.

Scout: When sin entered the perfect world God had made, perfect peace was lost. The man and woman hid from God and blamed each other and God for what they had done.

Parker: Peace was replaced by shame and hurt and sickness and death. But God did not give up on the people He had made!

Kamryn: He promised to send a Savior to bring back the peace that had been lost.

Carter: We read about God's first promise of a Savior in Genesis 3:15, when He spoke judgment on the serpent who had deceived Adam and Eve:

Clara: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." The Savior would take upon Himself the punishment that man deserved. He would defeat sin, death, and Satan and restore the relationship between God and man.

Hundreds of years passed while God's people waited, sometimes wondering if God had forgotten the promise He had made in the Garden of Eden. But God had not forgotten. He sent prophets such as Isaiah to remind the people that He would one day fulfill His promise to restore peace. Isaiah prophesied about the promised Savior, saying, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Action Rhyme

“To Us a Child Is Born”

To us a Child is born
To us a Son is given.

*(Rock arms, as if holding a baby.)
(Hold both arms out, as if giving
something.)*

This Christmas we receive
The blessed gift of heaven.

*(Place hands on heart.)
(Point up.)*

Children’s Hymn

“God Loves Me Dearly”

LSB#392 v. 1, 3

*God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me. Refrain*

*Refrain:
Therefore I’ll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.*

*He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free. Refrain*

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite. Public domain.

Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB #338

+ Peace Is Proclaimed +

Kolton: Malachi, the last prophet recorded in the Old Testament, foretold that God would send a messenger to prepare the way of the promised Savior. Four hundred years later, when John the Baptist was born, his father, Zechariah, proclaimed these words about John, who was the messenger: “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Saydee: The promised Prince of Peace was about to arrive! God sent an angel to Mary with the proclamation that she would be the mother of the Savior. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. 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, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

God also sent an angel to proclaim this good news to Joseph. Matthew 1:20–23 tells us, “An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”

Recitation

The prophets spoke about
The Savior God would send,
The glorious Prince of Peace
Whose kingdom shall not end.

Hymn

*“Peace Came to Earth”
(see next page)*

Peace Came to Earth

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

GOD WITH US

Timothy Shaw



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night
2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
4 How else could I have known You, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light
The in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt
In flesh and blood You bore our griefs and pain,
How else could I have loved You, O my God!



And God em - bod - ied love and sheathed His might—
The wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled—
In bread and wine You vis - it us a - gain—
How else could I em - brace You, O my God!



Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but praise Im - man - u - el!

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+ The Prince of Peace +

Raynee: The birth of Jesus Christ from Luke chapter 2: “In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

Hadley: “And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!’”

Addison: “When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

Grace: The baby born in Bethlehem was the promised Prince of Peace, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Savior! God the Father sent His only Son into this world to live a perfect life in our place, die on the cross for our sins, and rise again to life, giving us the sure hope of eternal life. All who believe in Him shall have peace with God once more. Romans 5:1 declares, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Recitation

The angels sang God's praise
Amid the heavens bright.
We also join in song
And fill the church with light.

Recitation

The shepherds left the sheep
They watched in nearby fields
To see the Lamb of God
In human flesh revealed.

Children's Hymn

"Away in a Manger"

LSB #364

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.*

Text: Little Children's Book, Philadelphia, 1885, sts. 1–2; Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, st. 3, alt. Public domain.

+ Peace for All People +

Annabelle: Jesus Christ came for all people. God placed a star in the heavens to guide the Wise Men from the East to the Savior of the world. We read from Matthew chapter 2: “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.’”

“When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.”’”

Jack: “Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.’ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.”

Lily: “When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.”

Hadley: The shepherds couldn’t keep the good news of the Savior to themselves. They returned glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard. The Wise Men also likely shared the story of the star that led them to the Savior-King. How beautiful it is when we share the Good News of the Savior, who brings peace to the world. Isaiah 52:7 tells us, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion,

Jordi: ‘Your God reigns.’”

Recitation

We also kneel before
The Babe in humble stall,
The Lord our Righteousness
Who came to save us all.

Children's Hymn

"To Us a Child Is Born"

Refrain:

*To us a Child is born,
To us a Son is given.
This Christmas we receive
The blessed gift of heaven.*

*The prophets spoke about
The Savior God would send,
The glorious Prince of Peace
Whose kingdom shall not end. Refrain*

*The angels sang God's praise
Amid the heavens bright.
We also join in song
And fill the church with light. Refrain*

*The shepherds left the sheep
They watched in nearby fields
To see the Lamb of God
In human flesh revealed. Refrain*

*We also kneel before
The Babe in humble stall,
The Lord our Righteousness
Who came to save us all. Refrain*

The Apostles' Creed

**☩ 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.**

Responsive Reading

☩ Lord, let Your servants go in peace;

☩ Your word has been fulfilled.

☩ Our eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people;

☩ A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

**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.**

Prayer

P Let us pray.


C Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take away our sins and bring peace to our fallen world. Help us to share Your message of love and forgiveness with others so that they may also find peace in You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles

Pastor Nate will light his candle from the Christ Candle in the center of the Advent Wreath. He will then light each one of the ushers' candles. The ushers will proceed down the aisle, lighting the first candle in each pew. The first person then passes the light to the next person. A lighted candle is never tipped, but held upright when giving light to the next person. When all of the candles are lit, the congregation will rise and pray the Lord's Prayer, after which the Carol of Peace (Silent Night) will be sung.


Lord's Prayer

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.



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.



2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Benediction

P Joy to the world, the Son of God, our Savior, has come! The peace of the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you today and every day.

C Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Joy to the World”

LSB #387



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.



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Please join us at our upcoming services:

9:00am – Monday, December 25th – Christmas Day Service

9:00am – Sunday, December 31st – Worship Service (First Sunday after
Christmas)

7:00pm – Sunday, December 31st – New Year's Eve Service with Communion

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Welcome to Saint Michael's!



We are glad to have had you at our church to worship Jesus Christ with us this evening!

At Saint Michael's we exist to Worship God, Love One Another, and Serve All People.

You are always welcome in our church and among our congregation. If you are looking for a church home or are interested in learning more about Jesus and the salvation that he freely gives, we would love to get to speak with you in more depth. Feel free to reach out to me this evening, or if it is more convenient, to contact me via email at pastor@stmichaelswinchester.org or via cell phone at (979) 966-8036.

Our regular Sunday Worship Service takes place at 9:00 am each week in our sanctuary followed by Adult Bible Study and Children's Sunday School from 10:15-11:15 am. You are also invited to attend our New Year's Eve Service at 7:00 pm.

In addition to our worship services, free and confidential Christian counseling is offered to all individuals and couples who would like spiritual guidance in their lives or marriages.

For more information about our church and to access archived bulletins and audio recordings of our worship services, visit our church website at www.stmichaelswinchester.org.

It is our sincere desire to serve you in any need that you might have and to show you the love of Christ which he has shown to us.

If I can be of help to you in any way at all, please contact me!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Nate Hill