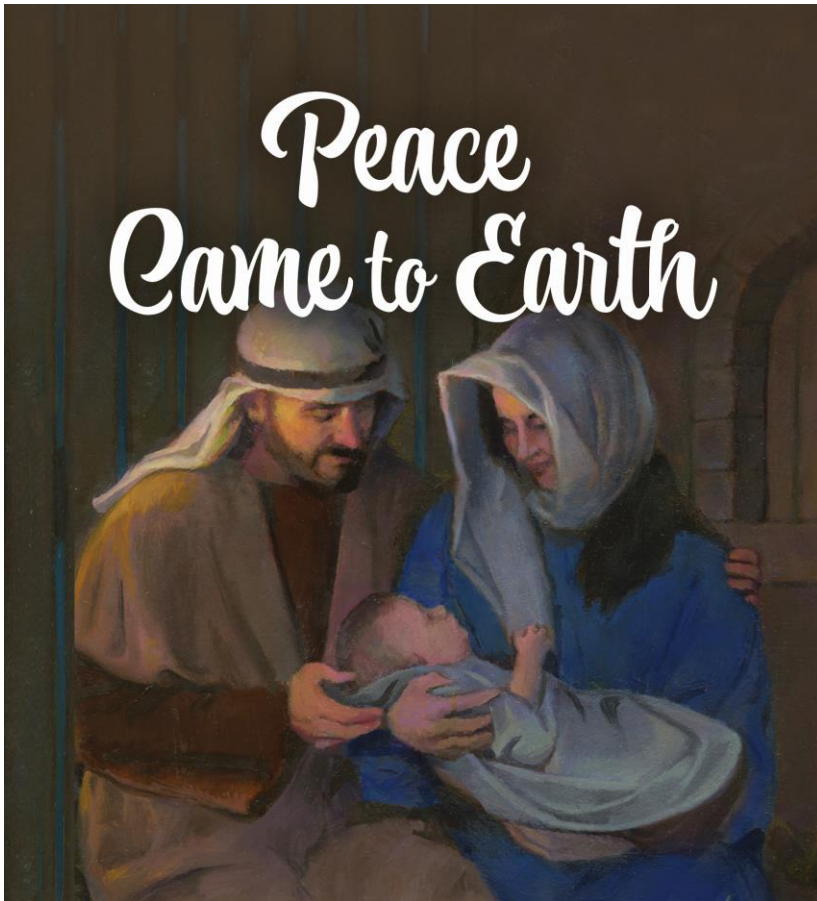


Monday, December 25th 2023, 9:00am

The Nativity of Our Lord



700 Frio Street
Winchester, Texas 78945

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

Rev. Nate Hill – Pastor
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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 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!

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: The Diamond Found in the Manger

A Service for Christmas Day

As We Gather

Today we remember Mary and Joseph as they come to Bethlehem. We sing with the angels as they fill the sky. We run with the shepherds as they arrive on the scene. We behold the glory of God in the face of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is here we find our peace. Wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, our Prince of Peace is very much the diamond that the everlasting Father gives to us. As we gather to open His Word and sing His praises, let us rejoice in Jesus, the greatest blessing the world will ever know.

Prelude

Selected Music

Ringling of the Church Bell

Ushers

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

+ PREPARATION +

Opening Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB #379

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Everlasting Father, we acknowledge our unworthiness to stand in Your presence as we celebrate the arrival of Your Son to save us. Confessing our sins of thought, word, and deed, we pray:

C **Father, forgive us.**

P The Virgin Mary accepted Your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive us for the ways we ignore the call of Your Holy Word and live in disobedience to Your perfect will. We pray:

C **Father, forgive us.**

P Your Son, our Savior, was humbly born and laid in the Bethlehem manger. Forgive our greed, pride, and rejection of Your commands. We pray:

C **Father, forgive us.**

P The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord had made known to them. Forgive our self-interest and unwillingness to leave everything to follow You. We pray:

C Father, forgive us.

P The Magi followed the star as it led them to Jesus, the true King of all people. Forgive us for not seeking You with all our hearts. We pray:

C Father, forgive us.

P Everlasting Father, knowing that You hear and answer us for sake of Jesus Christ, we bring the silent prayers of our hearts before Your throne of grace.

We take a moment for silent prayers of confession and reflection on God's Word.

P Our Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God sends forth His perfect gift into our sinful world. On this most sacred day, we behold the glory of Jesus Christ and receive the redemption He earned for us by His death and resurrection. By faith in His promises, we become children of our Everlasting Father and heirs of His eternal kingdom. As your pastor, and by the command and authority of Jesus, our Prince of Peace, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LSB #380



Introit

- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
C **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**
- P** The Lord reigns; He is robed in majesty;
C **the Lord is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.**
- P** Yes, the world is established;
C **it shall never be moved.**
- P** Your throne is established from of old;
C **You are from everlasting.**
- P** Your decrees are very trustworthy;
C **holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.**
- 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.**

- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
C **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
Everlasting Father, You fill our hearts with joy as we gather to celebrate the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that we may joyfully receive Your perfect gift, the diamond found in the manger; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

⁷How 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, “Your God reigns.”
⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
 together they sing for joy;
 for eye to eye they see
 the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹Break forth together into singing,
 you waste places of Jerusalem,
 for the LORD has comforted His people;
 He has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰The LORD has bared His holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations,
 and all the ends of the earth shall see
 the salvation of our God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 98:1-4

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

C His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

P The Lord has made known His salvation;

C He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

C break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**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**

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are My Son,
today I have begotten You”?

Or again,

“I will be to Him a father,
and He shall be to Me a son”?

⁶And again, when He brings the firstborn into the world, He says,

“Let all God’s angels worship Him.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

P Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory,

C **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**
Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ!

Children’s Sermon

Hymn

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

LSB #374

Sermon

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

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Wonderful Counselor, You govern all things with wisdom, righteousness, and truth. Grant to all mankind the joy of Your presence, that we may see You at work in our midst. Guide all nations to behold Your glory in the face of Jesus. Wherever the good news of great joy is announced, grant that lives be changed forever by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord Jesus, bring joy to our world!

- P** Mighty God, You reign over all things and yet, in Christ, You reach down to save us by placing the most brilliant Light and most beautiful diamond in the manger of Bethlehem. Give us the boldness to declare Your mighty deeds and reflect the brightness of Your truth throughout the world. Inspire us to fulfill our earthly callings so that, through our worship and witness, all may know Your saving love. Let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord Jesus, bring joy to our hearts and minds!

- P** Everlasting Father, You embrace us and make us Your children through faith in Your only-begotten Son. Bless all those who, in any form of illness of mind and body, need Your tender care. Heal the sick, bind up the brokenhearted, and grant Your perfect peace to all who rest in You. We pray for those with special needs, that they may rejoice in the message of Christ coming into this world for them. Let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord Jesus, bring joy to our bodies and souls!

- P** Prince of Peace, You give to us what the world can never give. Drive out all fears and doubts. Deliver us from all enemies, seen and unseen. Grant us solace in Him whose blood has set us free that we may be Your people forever. Open our ears to the message of the angels: "Fear not . . . for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord Jesus, bring joy to our world!

- P** Gracious God, we entrust all of these prayers into Your good and gracious hands, for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate: Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

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*



Offertory Hymn

“What Child Is This”

LSB #370

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

Closing Sentences

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

P and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

C Mighty God,

P Everlasting Father,

C Prince of Peace.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord made His face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing 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.



Welcome to Saint Michael's!



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

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 morning, 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