



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 Series of Services for Advent

Week 3: Our Peace Rests on Him Alone

As We Gather

During one of the busiest and most stressful times of the year, we pause this third week of Advent and consider the source of real and abiding peace. This harmony with both God and others comes to us neither through our exertions of control nor through our best-laid plans, but through the reign of our Mighty God come near to us in Jesus, His one and only Son. The fulfillment of our everlasting Father's perfectly executed plan to save the world is revealed to us in the straw of the Bethlehem manger and then, some thirty-three years later, in the wood and nails of Calvary's cross. Amid the disorder of our chaotic lives, our Prince of Peace gives us what the world can never give. Let us center our hearts and minds on our Wonderful Counselor, who freely gives His everything so that our peace may rest on Him alone.

Opening Hymn *"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"*

LSB #352

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

C Amen.

(The first, second, and third Advent candles are lit.)

Opening 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.

P The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 126

P When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

C we were like those who dream.

- P** Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
C **and our tongue with shouts of joy;**
P then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”
C **The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.**
P Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!
C **Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!**
P He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
C **shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.**

Salutation

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

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by the light of Your Holy Word, we may be drawn to Jesus, who steps into the chaos of our world, that we may know the peace that rests on Him alone. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Children’s Sermon

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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¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
³You have multiplied the nation;
You have increased its joy;
they rejoice before You
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
You have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For 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.
⁷Of the increase of His government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Psalm 85:8

P Alleluia. Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

C for He will speak peace to His people. Alleluia.

Third Reading

Matthew 10:34-39

³⁴"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Reading Response

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Sermon Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB #357 v. 1, 6-7

Sermon

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*



Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

P Mary rejoiced that the Lord was coming to earth, stepping into the center of our troubled world to deliver to us the gifts of heaven – peace with the Father. Let us now use her song of praise to rejoice in our Advent Savior.

C My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;

P for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

C For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name; and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

P He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

C He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

P He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

C He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.

**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.**

**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my
Savior!**

Lord's Prayer

**☩ 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.**

Collect for Peace

☐ O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,
☩ give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give,
☐ that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we,
being defended from the fear of our enemies,
☩ may live in peace and quietness;
☐ through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
☩ Amen.

Benediction

Isaiah 9:6b

☐ His name shall be called
**☩ Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.**

P Go forth then, children of God, living securely in Him and in harmony with one another, rejoicing in His presence and knowing His perfect peace. The blessing of almighty God – the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit – be with you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Once He Came in Blessing”

LSB #333

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Please join us at our upcoming services:

9:00am – Sunday, December 24th – Worship Service

6:00pm – Sunday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Service (Fourth Sunday in Advent)

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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