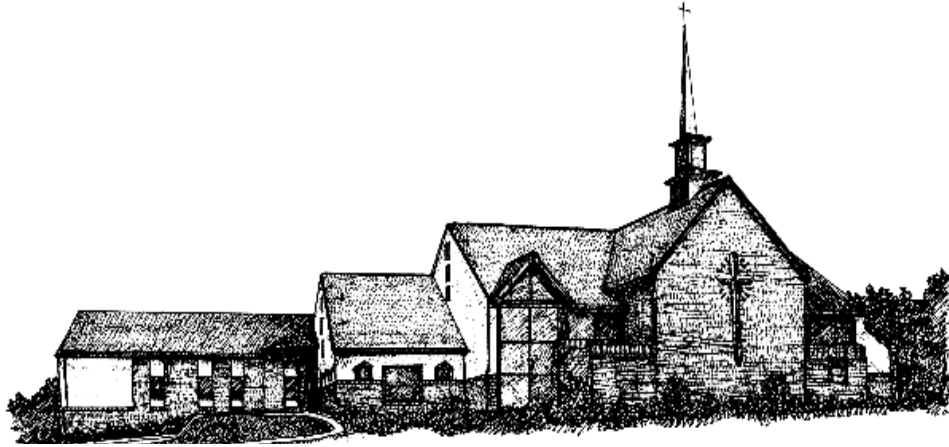


ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



P. O. Box 178
109 E. Doe Run Road
Unionville, Pennsylvania 19375-0178

The Rev. Frederick J. DeRasmo, Jr., Senior Pastor
The Rev. Adrienne M. Meier, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Danny N. Bodine, Visitation Pastor

Church Office: 610-347-1696
Fax: 610-347-0148
Email: SMLC1517@gmail.com
Website: SMLC1517@gmail.com

Church Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

2017 ANNUAL REPORTS

Report of the Senior Pastor - 2017

*Broken Record - One who continually repeats the same statement with **little** variation, if any.
- Urban Dictionary*

As I begin my words to you, I must confess, I wonder at times like this if my words have become nothing more than a “broken record” to you. I usually lift up for you how we have grown in the past year, highlight successful programs of ministry, and accent events that have drawn us together as a church family. Why spoil your continued reading? These things have happened through the work of the Holy Spirit, as you no doubt will see for yourself in the reports that follow. Perhaps you will be able to glean a few highlights reading between the lines I write, but my intention here is to issue a challenge to you as we move boldly into a new year, creating a culture at St. Michael that encourages and enables us to grow stronger as “*Everyday-Everywhere*” followers of Jesus Christ. “*Everyday-Everywhere*” followers ... I like that thought!

Recently I read an article by Ed Stetzer, pastor, author and researcher. The article was published in the Leadership Journal of Christianity Today titled, “Churches in America”. My “Lutheran filter” is always on when reading something coming out of a Southern Baptist bent, but this article is worth our consideration.

In this article the author states, “I believe that we are clarifying what it means to be Christian in America. Most of us realize that although about three-quarters of Americans check the Christian box when filling out a survey, they are not all genuine followers of Jesus. For many, the idea of being Christian and American are one in the same. Or some claim to be Christian because they are not Jewish, or Hindu, or Muslim, or Buddhist. But the Church defines Christian differently than the culture at large, and the distinction is an important one to make.”

Stetzer continues by stating, “I believe it is helpful to distinguish those who profess Christianity in three categories: Cultural, Congregational, and Convictional.

1-Cultural Christians are people who believe themselves to be Christians simply because their culture tells them they are. They are Christian by heritage. They may have religious roots in their family or may come from a people group tied to a certain religion. This group makes up around one-third of the 75% who self-identify as Christians, or about a quarter of all Americans.

2-Congregational Christians are similar to the first except that these individuals at least have some connection to congregational life. They have a home church they grew up in and perhaps where they were married. They might even visit occasionally. Here again though we would say that these people are not practicing any sort of real, vibrant faith. They are attendees. This group makes up another one-third of the 75%, or about a quarter of all Americans.

3-Convictional Christians are people who are actually living according to their faith. These are the people who would say they have met Jesus Christ, that this relationship changed their lives, and since that time their lives have been increasingly oriented around their faith in Him. Convictional Christians make up the final third of the 75%, or about a quarter of all Americans.”

Cultural, Congregational, or Convictional ... which are you? Where does your family fall along the spectrum? Can you wear the label of “*Everyday-Everywhere*” followers of Jesus?

It is no secret that the Church in the U.S. is experiencing a shift in member participation and an unwillingness to make a commitment to more than a few hours per month. Unfortunately, the staff and I are already seeing this creep into and taking hold in the life of our St. Michael family.

Thus ... the challenge ... I have decided to share the results of this important research with you to encourage you to take the time for a conversation with your spouse, children, other family members, a friend or with me relating to where you find yourself within these three categories. Be honest with yourself. Most of us will be quick to claim that we are convictional, but are we really? Are we practicing a real and vibrant faith “Everyday-Everywhere”? And once you have that conversation, my question is, do you believe there is room for growth in your faith journey? Is it reasonable to ask God to help you move in the direction of becoming a Convictional Christian if you are not one already?

Dear friends we live in a culture today that is often hostile to the message of Christianity. We are challenged on a daily basis to either take a stand for Christ and live out our faith or to compromise on the gift of faith we have in Jesus Christ. It is a decision we must be prepared and ready to make ... Everyday-Everywhere.

A Few More Thoughts ...

I am very picky about clean windows in my car. If you have a dog, I’ll probably spot you at a stoplight one of these days, and then I’ll start talking to myself about those nose prints and tongue impressions all over your car windows. I have gotten better in recent years trying to steer my attention away from smudgy car windows but ... sometimes I can’t help myself.

A clean car window obsession is not a virtue in the winter. Maybe it’s never a virtue. Recently salt spray makes a quick mess of anyone’s priorities, but especially of perfectionists. It puts an ugly tint on the rear window in a matter of minutes. I am lucky enough to have a wiper and washer on my rear window like the front window. The catch is making sure there is washer fluid in the rear receptacle. You guessed it-I’ve been riding around for weeks with a salted rear window!

Two nights ago, I could barely see out the rear window. Life is better now, mostly because I took the time to haul that gas station squeegee out of its muddy, blue solution.

Where am I going with this theological reflection on this rear salted window of mine? In the direction of the Bible – forward (yes, that incredible Word that shapes our lives). The Bible is inevitably and always forward. Its concern is the future. Just as the best way to get somewhere in a car is to look forward out the windshield, so the best way to read scripture is to lean into the future. When Jesus disappeared from the tomb, we’re told that he “went on ahead” of everybody, especially blindsiding those fixed on their rearview mirror.

You see ... plenty of religion these days is loaded with nostalgia. It gets defined by the past. We often like to describe our faith by what we remember most distinctly from childhood church experiences. (Myself included!) Fundamentalism, at its worst, is a compulsion to retrieve and preserve the past, however imagined that past might be. If only we could recapture the past, this way of thinking goes, all would be well. But that’s foolishness. It doesn’t work to read the Bible that way any more than it works to drive that way. God’s Word is living and active, waiting for us to do something with it. Again, another challenge ... what is God’s Word waiting for you/us to do with it? It is living and active and forward looking! Does our faith, will our faith reflect that?

So today, dear friends, let’s understand faith as having a deep confidence in God’s future, not living in some imagined (even if memorable) past. My prayer is that we may move forward boldly, confidently into 2018 as followers of Jesus Christ. Hmm ... “Everyday-Everywhere and in Everyway” followers ... I like that thought better!

In closing ...

Please also know that I have been humbled and blessed by the vision, courage, strength, love and grace of this congregation. My thanks to each of you for sharing your lives, your faith and your courageous hope with me as we journey together in ministry.

As always, I am indebted to our Church Council, Ministry Teams and Chairs, other leaders and our staff for the things they do to make our congregation healthy and full of life, and to help make me successful in my ministry with you. And special thanks to my wife Karen, who has borne 34 years of everything I bring home as a pastor. I couldn't have made it this far without her love and support.

Your Partner in Mission and Ministry,
Pastor Rick

SENIOR PASTOR'S STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2017

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership end of 2016	1216	919
Members received – 2017		
By Baptism/Child	9	
By Baptism/Adult		
By Affirmation of Faith		8
By Transfer- Lutheran congregations	2	2
By Transfer- non-Lutheran congregations	6	6
Members removed – 2017		
By Transfer	7	7
By Request		
By Death	3	3
Membership end of 2017	1223	925

Confirmed Members who communed: 465
Unconfirmed who communed: 41

Average Weekly Worship Attendance: 197



REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR – 2017

It seems like eons ago, when I was waiting to hear back about a new call in a new state, the call that would eventually become this life-changing, vocation-affirming call to St. Michael. I was fearful, anxious. So, I taped a simple prayer I found in a book (*God in the Verbs*, I believe) to my bathroom mirror. It found its way back to me this year, but I forgot that it was a prayer that comforted me on my way here until my mother-in-law asked for it a few days ago. It goes:

God please guide me.
Let faith fill my life instead of fear.

This is a year that could have tested my faith. Having a baby born so early (three and a half months early!), so sick, and hospitalized for so long... I don't even know how to finish that sentence. As Christians, we talk about redemption - God buying back our lives; God making things right. What has redeemed this situation, what has preserved my faith, is my church. Well, God's Church. You. It is your prayers, meals, support, love, guidance, advice, trust, and faith. You believed everything would work out, even when we couldn't. When I was contemplating a call, I knew the congregation had to be a place where my family felt at home. You made a home for us here this year. Thank you. I would list you all here, but that would take more space and Bonnie threatens to charge me by the word - but I want to especially thank Pr. Rick, Bonnie, Linda, and Pr. Dan for their patience and kindness this year.

After that, everything else is gravy, really. And, much of what I have to write you about 2017 you will read in the team reports: the new, combined confirmation and youth ministry program with the Episcopal Church of the Advent; over 20,000 meals packaged with Rise Against Hunger (which arrived safely in Zimbabwe in November); a fun and fantastic kick off to Sunday School that's sure to become an annual event.

Looking forward, several new ideas are in their infancy - many around intergenerational and family (using the term broadly) programing: marriage enrichment, family retreats, special speakers on parenting, and children's activities. I am eager to hear from you about your ideas and dreams for our ministry together and to try some of them in the new year.

To God be the glory,
Respectfully submitted,
Pr. Adrienne M. Meier



REPORT OF THE MUSIC DIRECTOR - 2017

January is named for the Roman god, Janus, who was two-faced in that he looked both back at the year past, and ahead to the year to come. As a music director, I do the same thing.

Reflecting on the past year, there were both challenging times and mountain top experiences.

The biggest challenge involves recruiting enough singers to provide quality choral music on a weekly basis during the year. Attendance in rehearsals ebbs and flows, so the type of music we rehearse changes almost weekly to adapt to different numbers and voice parts. (It's a good thing I like puzzles!) To accommodate schedules, and yet have a music program that will continue to be an integral part of the worship life of St. Michael, various options for commitment are offered.

One of the mountain tops was the recent Christmas Cantata, called *The Song Heard 'Round the World*. All choirs participated (Chancel, Matins, Youth and Children's Choirs, Jubilation and Vivace

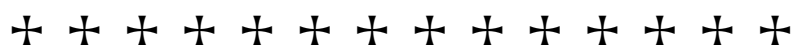
Ringers) along with several ‘extra’ singers from the congregation and community. Instrumentalists Mindy Bowman (flute), Carole Armstrong Lovelace (violin), Tony Pirolo (cello), Joe Eckman and Brent Lewis (trumpet), Ron Bellamy (clarinet and handbells), Eric and Dan Folmar, Luke Summa (percussion) and Karen Markey at the organ provided inspirational accompaniment. Jubilation Ringers rang us into the service, Vivace Ringers played during the Offering, and Andrea Loveland narrated. Countless hours go into preparing for this service, but the overwhelming affirmation from the congregation makes it well worth it. In addition to regular Sunday morning worship with choirs and bells, other highlights throughout the year included

- Easter services with brass, choirs and organ
- A Ring-a-Story musical where the Vivace Ringers accompanied on handbells, as the Children’s Choir took on the roles of angels looking down on earth on Easter morning.
- A trip to the Area 2 Handbell Festival held at Onondaga Community College. Thanks to Janet Parks, Joe Case and Nancy Michel for chaperoning our Vivace Ringers.
- A summer workshop for adult ringers called Handbell Pops featured music from popular Broadway shows. Ringers from Calvary Lutheran and Westminster Presbyterian in West Chester joined our ringers for a combined evening of fun and fellowship.
- Two summer chime workshops for children in elementary school sparked enough interest to start a new bell choir for our young ringers. In place of ‘Children’s Choir’, we now have the Genesis Ringers, who also participate as singers on occasion.
- A 500th Anniversary Reformation Service with brass, bells, choirs and organ.
- Instrumentalists and other musicians were featured throughout the year. We enjoyed the gifts of Janet Witman on harp, Joe Hrin on clarinet, Ron Bellamy on handbells, Carole Armstrong on violin, and the Johannes Brass on Christmas Eve. Rob Furr has contributed his organ skills for communion Sundays. Jim Sullivan, Emily Scarola and Karen Markey filled in as substitute organists throughout the year.

Looking forward, I hope to continue to find new ways to use the talents of our members to provide music each week that will enhance our worship.

To all who support and affirm the music program either by participating in a choir, or expressing appreciation for the work of the choirs, thank you. For those who already participate, thank you for making it a priority in a world when there are so many claims on your time. I am so blessed to have the opportunity to work with so many fine, dedicated people of St. Michael. Special thanks to Bonnie McDonald who goes above and beyond helping in every area of the church. Thanks to Sheila Wetzel who handles choir robe assignments. Thanks to Linda and Larry Porter who support the bell choirs in so many quiet ways. And to the congregation of St. Michael Lutheran, thank you for your support of me, personally, and your support of the music program. I look forward to being in ministry with you again this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lorgus, Director of Music



REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT – 2017

As we turn the page on 2017 and expectantly look to the future, I want to thank the Congregation for giving me the chance to serve a second year as council president. There have been no other experiences in my life that have put me in direct contact with such talented people. And the fact that this talent is all driven by the presence of the Holy Spirit, and motivated by a desire to serve Christ and his message has really set apart this experience for me. I'm grateful for the responsibility entrusted to me, and all the support I've received (and needed!) to fulfill this commitment.

Specifically, as council has strived to help manage the business of the Church over the past year, I'm most encouraged by three trends that I'm seeing with respect to our future.

First, I see an increasing willingness to try new things. The Church is rich in history and tradition, but also faced with the challenge of the increasing pace of change in the world around us. Balancing the need to adjust while staying true to our beliefs and shared experience is a struggle most congregations are facing. Over the past few years, I've seen not only an increase in trying new things, but being open to quickly adjusting if they don't work quite well, or building on them strongly when they do succeed.

To this end, it's been exciting throughout 2017 to see the continued expansion and development of successful efforts like Rise Against Hunger, the 60 Plussers group, the Christmas Tea, the Blue Christmas service, Christmas for Migrants, and other efforts like Stuff the Truck in partnership with Kennett Area Community Service.

At the same time, new efforts have been spun up around small group get togethers (Family Nights), fellowship opportunities (Beer and Hymns), caring for others (CPR/AED training), and youth/confirmation partnership with the Episcopal Church of the Advent. All of these have been carried out with a try and see approach which is very exciting, as we quickly learn what does and doesn't work and develop meaningful programs from what we learn.

Second, I'm beginning to see an expansion of participation from the congregation in volunteer roles. I believe that demand for our time, from many different sources, is probably greater now than ever before. And as we've discussed, sometimes we have relied on a relatively small group of very dedicated members to carry a heavy portion of the effort. While that is still the case to a degree, we're beginning to see a broader set of volunteers stepping up to conduct the work of St. Michael. What's been most powerful to me is that it seems this is happening across generations, across life stages, and across the various ministries we support.

Third, I'm very excited about the staff that is leading us into the future. The word "team" gets thrown around a lot whenever groups of individuals are brought together, yet it can be rare that those groups of individuals truly act as a team. We are so blessed right now to have a staff at St. Michael that truly complements one another in their abilities, supports each other in our shared priorities, and is so committed to enabling the faith journey of the congregation at St. Michael.

As we enter 2018, it will be a strong focus for congregation council to continue to nurture these positive trends, and help find ways to accelerate them wherever possible. I ask you humbly to consider your participation at St. Michael, and how it can be supportive in the same way.

We can never be sure of the challenges that will face us in the future, and we're all very aware of the difficulties that have faced many congregations. Still, I cannot help but be excited by the pieces that are in place at St. Michael, and the opportunity ahead of us if we each make a shared commitment to the faith community we're building.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Heiss – Council President



BUILDING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT - 2017

During 2017, the committee continued to focus on projects to reduce our energy costs and improve our overall appearance.

The following is a list the major accomplished during the year:

- 1- Completed the replacement of all major lighting with energy efficient LED lights. Our energy costs are down 15-20% for the year. We have had three early failures of the LEDs in the Sanctuary which the vendor is looking into. The normal life expectancy of the LED lights is 15-20 years.
- 2- Installed new wood wainscoting on the lower part of the Sancutary walls to prevent damage to the walls long term.
- 3- Completed painting of both outside air conditioner enclosures in the front of the building.
- 4- Completed the building of two smaller Columbariums flanking the original larger unit. Also installed new paver walkways from the parking lot and from the side door off the Fellowship Hall, The “nest of niches” will be purchased and installed later as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darwin Wika



BUILDING & PROPERTY -FACILITIES USAGE REPORT 2017

We are pleased by all the groups that continue to use our church for the many activities other than regular Sunday worship. They include the Sixty-Plussers, the Women’s Group, the Youth Group, N.G.A., Community Bible Study, V.B.S., Trunk-or-Treat, the Red Cross Blood Drive, the choirs, A.A. & Al-Anon, Mom’s Club of Unionville-Chadds Ford, Music at St. Michael Concert Series, Brandywine Valley Chorale, the “Seekers” Book Club, Women’s Christmas Tea and many others too numerous to mention.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Streamer,
Facilities Usage Coordinator



CARING SHEPHERDS REPORT – 2017

Once again this year, the Caring Shepherds went about their “caring ministry” in an efficient, thorough, and sensitive manner. They fulfilled their charge of relaying information to the pastors about their Flocks regarding illness, death, family problems, joys and other spiritual needs. In addition, they acted appropriately when they were made aware of various kinds of needs.

Caring Shepherds go about their ministry in many ways. They arrange for meals, on a short term basis; they visit members of their flock who are ill or homebound; they send cards, they make phone calls; they deliver

prayer shawls, made by the SMLC Prayer Shawl Group. In addition, they coordinate sending Caring Cards, signed by the congregation, to let homebound members know that they are in the prayers of their church family. Finally, every Caring Shepherd is a part of the Prayer Chain. Therefore, prayers for members of their Flock, or for others, are a big part of this ministry.

My sincere thanks, and that of the entire St. Michael Family, go to all of the Shepherds. First, a special thank you to Jane Kramer, who retired as a Shepherd this year. Then, I extend heartfelt appreciation to the rest of the "team": Pat Bodine, Bunny Cameron, Carol Davies, Sue Fisher, Mary Ann Knechtel, Jaymie Lacombe, Andrea Loveland, Debbie Schultz, Joan Scone, Emily Singer, Ruth Smith, Kathy and Dick Streamer, Barb and Bill Vann, Jimi-Lee Weber, and Kay Wika. I also extend a special welcome to Diana Roberts, who joined us this year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kammy Franz, Chair



CHILD CARE COMMITTEE REPORT - 2017

Sarah Fickes, our paid nursery caregiver, continues to work on her degree for Early Education at West Chester University while spending her Sunday mornings in the SMLC nursery. She shares interactive crafts, bible stories, music and play time with the children during both church services.

Children (6 weeks up to 4 years) continue to utilize the nursery during church services and special events to play and learn while parents and siblings attend activities. We offer a quiet room for babies to sleep and new moms to nurse as well as space for toddlers to play games, read or color.

"Wiggle" sacks, located in the first coat closet on left when entering through the main church doors, contain coloring books, drawing paper and small books to keep young children occupied during the church services.

Also, a row of seats outside the sanctuary (behind the glass walls) is provided for parents/caregivers with young children who are transitioning from the nursery to engage in the church service.

Volunteers of any age are also welcome to help update bulletin boards, share a craft, take pictures or read a story to the children. Please contact one of the Child Care Committee members, if interested.

The Child Care Committee was on budget for 2017 and will keep the same budget for 2018. Enjoy the time with friends and family over the wonderful holiday season, and hope 2018 brings happiness, peace and love for you. God Bless!

Respectfully,
The Child Care Committee
Andrea Davis, Chair
Jen Scimone
Pastor Rick DeRasmo
Sarah Fickes, Nursery Caregiver



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT - 2017

Vacation Bible School: July 31-August 4, 2017

The halls of St. Michael were abuzz during the week of July 31st as 110 students and 45 volunteers enjoyed another fantastic week of Vacation Bible School! The church was transformed into a *Mighty Fortress*, complete with a drawbridge, stone walls, torches and countless other decorations. Each day began with everyone gathered in the Sanctuary for songs, dance and the daily lesson. From there, the different groups of students traveled throughout the building for games, crafts, snacks, Bible challenge, and story time before finishing the day back in the Sanctuary, where they gathered together again for more songs.

During story time, the students saw the daily lesson come to life as they dressed in costumes to act out popular Bible stories as they were read aloud. At the Bible challenge, kids became familiar with different books of the Bible as well as learning a verse of the day. In the craft rooms, students made several projects to take home, but also had the chance to create a large castle wall to display in the church with each brick representing an individual student. The game station was a chance for students to play together with obstacle courses, water balloons, jousting and many other exciting activities. Snack time was not only a chance for everyone to enjoy a treat, but also a great time for the crew leaders to get to know all of the students and build connections.

On Thursday night during VBS week, the students were invited to tour the castle with parents and loved ones to show off all they had done during the week. It was a fun-filled evening with lots of families singing and dancing together before exploring the castle, conquering a scavenger hunt, and enjoying refreshments provided by the Evangelism Team.

Throughout the week, students learned about ELCA Good Gifts as well as the local Kennett Food Cupboard. The children had fun watching their change donations add up in their crew's change counter as the week went along. By Friday, over \$1300.00 had been donated! Through everyone's generosity, a family farm will be purchased through ELCA Good Gifts and a donation will be made to the Kennett Food Cupboard.

At Mighty Fortress, kids learned that God is their refuge and strength. Friends may fail them. They may not ace their test or make the team, but God promises to be their rock and their salvation, their fortress and sure defense. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this week such a memorable one for all of the kids! It's truly a blessing to have so many volunteers of all ages come together to create such a fun and exciting learning experience for children.

--contributed by Wes Parker, VBS Director

Adult Education

Adult Application Class:

In January we studied *Half Truths* by Adam Hamilton where he compares common Christian sayings with the wisdom found in Scripture. In February/March we discussed *God Is Closer Than You Think* by John Ortberg, a DVD study on experiencing the Presence of God in our every day life. We closed our Spring session with *Creed* by Adam Hamilton, studying what Christians believe and why. In September/October we studied *Goliath Must Fall* by Louie Giglio, addressing the 'Giants' in our lives that haunt us, such as fear and addiction, and how they gain a foothold in our hearts. We ended the year by discussing *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado about finding calm in our chaotic lives.

--contributed by Hank Fisher, Adult Education Coordinator

Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible Study that meets during the Sunday School hour is not so much a formal study of Scripture as it is a forum for Christians journeying through life. Among the books we've used as resources were ...

John Vannorsdall's *Dimly Burning Wicks*, a spirit-enlightened insight into some of the very basic questions Christians have about their faith in God.

Steven Paulson's *A Brief Introduction to Martin Luther*, a concise study of Martin Luther's life and major themes in his theology.

As the leader/facilitator of the class, my intent is always to make sure that there is a Biblical grounding to help stimulate our conversations and to challenge the participants to think about the implications of God's Living Word for our lives and our witness in the world today.

--contributed by Ray Foy, "Facilitator"

Men's Bible Study

Each Saturday morning "The Commonwealth Prayer Warriors" come together to study God's Word and share our blessings and concerns and strengthen each other through prayer and worship. We have 12 men that are active members of our group, and an open invitation is offered to any men to join our group, or simply come and try it out. Whether you are a new member of St. Michael, a longtime member looking for an opportunity to grow in your faith, or not a church member at all, we welcome you. We meet at 8 am on Saturday mornings and we normally are together for 60 – 90 minutes.

In 2017, we completed a study on Philippians. We then moved to a new format which is titled "The Essential Question: How Can You Make a Difference for God?". It took us through a 10-week Bible reading experience that helped us discover what we can do to make a difference with our lives. We closed the year studying "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis, which we will complete in January.

The men have recommended that we select a different study of books in the New Testament to help us look at God's Word through a new lens.

We continue to enjoy finding ways that we can serve the church and our community, such as setting up or breaking down for events in the Fellowship Hall, and helping out with Christmas lights or the summer picnic at Luther House. It is a blessing to be the hands and body of Christ as we are directed and called.

We have found that if we follow one simple message "to love our neighbors as ourselves" we will be in His Will. We aspire to share God's grace and forgiveness with others as He recklessly sows seeds of faith in our lives.

I thank God for the men of St. Michael. They have committed time to form relationships around God's Word that allow us to share our joy and sorrows, and encourage each other with compassion and grace. Please consider joining us on any Saturday morning to engage with Christian brothers to learn and engage with God's Word!

--contributed by Steve Lacombe, coordinator

Wednesday Walk Bible Study

Led by Pastor Dan Bodine, an average of 15 "walkers" met weekly on Wednesday mornings. During the past Winter and Spring, the group concluded a multi-year, IN-DEPTH study on the teachings of Matthew, which has been considered the important book of the New Testament. It was indeed a big day of celebration when we completed this study.

To start the Fall session, we studied Martin Luther and his teachings as part of the 500th Anniversary of his nailing the "95 Theses" to the Wittenberg Church door.

--contributed by Kammy Franz

Sunday School-Faith Formation Program

Great anticipation and celebration filled our Sunday School classrooms this year as we awaited and greeted the 500th anniversary of The Reformation!

During the 2016-17 Sunday School year, we attempted some fairly dramatic changes in both the format and curriculum used each week. As the year progressed, we found it necessary to modify and mold the curriculum a great deal just to meet the needs of our St. Michael teachers and children. At the conclusion of the program in Spring 2017, we decided to search for a different approach as the curriculum was not meeting our needs.

The program we are using now, 2017-2018, is the result of that search. It's a varied approach from preschool through high school. This means that the selected curriculum and materials are based on the ages and developmental needs of our Sunday School children.

Changes to the curriculum include the following:

Grades K-2 use *Holy Moly* . This is an age-appropriate curriculum that covers both the Old and New Testaments.

Grades 3-5 use *Whirl*. This curriculum follows the lectionary.

Grades 6-8 use *Feasting on the Word*. This curriculum explores the lectionary passages used each week.

High School uses *Nooma*-DVD series

Teachers have offered very positive feedback to these changes, and we are deeply grateful for the time and effort that our Sunday School volunteers give each week as they share God's word and God's love with the children. Lesson preparation time, setup and clean up are just a small part of the roles the volunteers play as they guide the children in their discipleship.

As we move through the year, we continue to review and reflect on our program, all the while maintaining our long-term vision for Sunday School: a program designed to form disciples from infancy to adulthood.

--contributed by Charlene C.Stone

Confirmation

In June, St. Michael Lutheran Church confirmed eight students. For the 2017-2018 program year, we have partnered with the Episcopal Church of the Advent for confirmation ministry. St. Michael has seventeen students and four adult guides in the program. In total, there are 25 students, six guides, and two ordained ministers (myself and Pr. Greg Wilson from Church of the Advent). Confirmation meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month in the evening in addition to regularly scheduled service and social events. In the fall, we held a retreat on worship and sacred space. The confirmation ministry uses an independently published program called Confirm, not Conform.

--contributed by Rev. Adrienne Meier



COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE REPORT 2017

This year is the fifth anniversary of the St. Michael Columbarium and Memorial Garden which was dedicated in January 2013. It remains our high priority at St. Michael that the Columbarium and Memorial Garden provide a place of peace and beauty for the cremains of loved ones to be interred in a meaningful setting on church property.

This mission continues to be entirely self-funded through donor contributions, memorial gifts, and sales of niches and memorial plaques. No money is provided from Church Operating or Reserve Funds. A Perpetual Care account has been established with 15% of each niche and memorial plaque sale price being placed in the account. To date a total of 40 niches and 7 memorial plaques have been reserved.

During 2017, long-planned additions to the site of the columbarium have been constructed. These additions provide more accessibility for family and friends to feel near to loved ones and includes a patio area where visitors will be able to sit and reflect in prayer. In addition to two new stone structures with each containing 48 niches, the project included a 960-sq. ft. slab patio, a slab walkway from the church building, and a slab walkway from the parking lot to the columbarium. We felt it important to provide an easy access point from the parking lot for families wishing to visit any time.

We continue to hold our price for niches in our initial columbarium at \$1,500 for all niches located outside the “Cross” area. All niches within the “Cross” area have been sold. While our supplier increased prices in 2016, our \$1,500 price for a niche is the total cost you pay. All niches can hold the cremains of two individuals and includes opening and closing of the niche, granite faceplate engraving, up to two urns, and all shipping and handling charges. Prices have not been established for the two new columbariums.

In addition to niches, the St. Michael Columbarium Ministry offers families the option of memorializing their loved ones with a plaque. These inscribed plaques are located on the back of the original Columbarium Wall, providing a meaningful way to express love and to honor loved ones. The price of a 6”x 2” engraved granite Memorial Plaque is \$350.00.

Niche and memorial plaque applications are available by contacting the church office or by contacting any team member.

Columbarium and Memorial Garden Team:

Dick Dietz Rick Wetzell
Karen Markey Darwin Wika
Bill Vann



MUSIC AT ST. MICHAEL (Concert) COMMITTEE REPORT - 2017

The Concert Committee sponsored two concerts this year. In March we hosted Silver and Ivory, a duo group of piano and flute, which was well received and had an attendance of 54. In November, we hosted our own Linda Lorgus and her husband, Ron Bellamy, for a very entertaining concert featuring Linda on piano and Ron on bells. This concert had an attendance of 91. We also assisted with the December concert of the Brandywine Valley Chorale.

We continue to experiment with the timing of concerts and the types of performers that would attract audiences. We welcome suggestions from the congregation.

For 2018 we have already contracted with the NewArk Chorale for a concert on May 20, 2018, and are looking for performers for a concert in the Fall of the year.

The task of the committee has been made easier the last two years by the Fellowship Committee assuming responsibility for the reception following our concerts. For this we are very grateful to the members of the committee, especially Debbie Schultz, Lois Kester and Karen DeRasmo.

I want to thank Sheila Wetzel, who is retiring from the committee, for her service on the committee for many years. The members of the committee are: Sandy Cordani, Rob Furr, Linda Lorgus, *ex officio*, Karen Markey, Lou Ross, Emily Singer, Janet Witman, and Kevin Witman.

Respectfully Submitted,
George Franz, Chair



ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – 2017

The Endowment Investment Committee, established in 2013 and comprised of three St. Michael members, Hank Fisher, Art Knechtel, and Chair Darwin Wika, invested \$50,000 in four Vanguard Funds in late 2013. We looked primarily at Vanguard, Fidelity, and Thrivent funds but decided on Vanguard as our primary Investment firm.

We selected four funds: 1) a Dividend Appreciation Fund - VDADX, 2) a Dividend Growth Fund - VDIGX, 3) Equity Income Fund - VEIPX, and 4) a Wellington Fund – VWELX.

2017 saw a 17.9% return on our portfolio, which continues to be reinvested in the same four funds.

Please note that contributions to the Endowment Fund can be made at any time, not just at death, although designating the St. Michael Endowment Fund as part of estate planning is an important and lasting opportunity for giving to the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Darwin Wika, Chair



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – 2017

The Fellowship Committee continues to be the small, but diligent, group that strives to provide the congregation with varied and enjoyable opportunities for members to come together and share food, fellowship and fun! This year we continued to serve as sponsors for the Hanging of the Greens, Congregational Meeting Dinners, Breakfast/Worship Events, Easter Brunch, and several Wine and Cheese events. We also hosted the Reformation Celebration Breakfast in October as we celebrated the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's posting the 95 Theses. We continue to supply the congregation with coffee in the Archangel Café each week.

It is the goal of the Fellowship Committee to continue to assist and support the work of the other church groups/committees when possible (e.g., 60 Plussers, Sunday School, and the Concert Committeeetc.). We welcome members to join our ranks for whatever assistance you may provide and we thank the congregation for their continued

support of our events as evidenced by their willingness to “sign on the line” and provide so many goodies for our events when the need arises.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Kester, Chairperson



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – 2017

The Role of the Finance Ministry Team continues to include the following:

- Monthly monitoring of giving and expenditures versus the budget and prior year
- Managing finances with the Treasurer
- Making recommendations to Council on both budget shortfalls and excesses
- Working with other Church Ministry Teams to anticipate future large funding needs
- Working with the Treasurer and Church Secretary on procuring goods and services economically and efficiently
- Preparing a proposed budget with the Ministry Team liaisons for Council review
- Reviewing insurance coverage and an inventory of building contents
- Developing and reviewing the investment plan
- Encouraging long term financial planning by church members, and
- Ensuring accurate accounting of congregational giving

During 2017, the Finance Team members included Janet Weber, Financial Secretary; Karen Liska, Treasurer; Steve Young; Ray Cumbaa; Randy Stone; Steve Young; and Dana Parker, Chair.

The following were major focus areas this year:

- Working with Council and the Ministry Teams, finalized the 2017 Budget proposal which was approved by the Congregation
- Successfully transitioned the bookkeeping function from RW Accounting to Cyron & Co.
- Provided detailed expense data to the Ministry Teams as requested to allow improved monitoring and control of budgets
- Continued to promote alternative forms of giving through messages in the church newsletter and church bulletin inserts: Simply Giving, electronic giving through the church website, and availability of a QR Code.
- Working with the Ministry Teams, developed a proposal for the 2018 budget for Council review and approval. Provisional Budget was prepared and approved by Council in early January 2018.
- In anticipation of future building and property replacement costs, transferred \$10,000 to the Reserve fund for capital improvements.

The Finance Team would like to thank all counting volunteers for their service throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dana Parker, Chairperson



LUTHER HOUSE RESIDENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES 2017 REPORT

During 2017 the St. Michael Luther House Support Group, with assistance from Luther Foundation and over **30** members of St. Michael Church, provided a variety of services and activities for the residents of Luther House.

The group is led by Bruce Beitler. Throughout most of 2017 members of the support group included Mary Ann Knechtel, Bunny Cameron, Christi Wampler, Karen Markey, Al & Eileen Bergbauer, Carol Davies, Lois Haldeman, Heather Childs, Carol Hanna and Bruce Beitler. The support group is involved in both volunteer services and in organizing activities subsidized by funding from Luther Foundation and the United Way. Funding for the Christmas gift card project comes directly from St. Michael Church.

In 2017 our projects included:

During the course of the year the Encore Shop donated numerous shipments of lightly used clothing to Luther House residents. The support group arranged for delivery of several hundred items of clothing to each of the four Luther House buildings during 2017. Clothing not utilized by residents is further donated to Oxford area charities and churches. Christi Wampler has done a great job in managing this activity.

On August 26, the support group hosted the seventh annual summer picnic for Luther House residents. Funding from Luther Foundation provided the tent, beef barbeque, fried chicken, drinks, paper ware and utensils while residents brought a salad or dessert to share. Approximately 110 residents attended the picnic. Many members of the St. Michael congregation assisted with set up, serving food, assisting residents and clean up. In 2018 the support group plans to again hold this event the weekend before Labor Day.

During 2017 the support group organized five bus trips for Luther House residents. As was the case last year, trips focused more on entertainment venues and less on shopping outings. Destinations included Rainbow Comedy Playhouse, New Candlelight Theatre, Spirit of Philadelphia Cruises, American Music Theatre and Bird-in-Hand Restaurant & Stage. Approximately 240 residents participated in these trips which are subsidized by funding from Luther Foundation. Members of the congregation served as trip volunteers and accompanied the residents to handle ticketing and trip logistics.

On December 4, 5, 6 and 7 the support group arranged for holiday luncheons to be served in each of the four Luther House buildings. Al Bergbauer and Bruce Beitler organized these luncheons which are funded by Luther Foundation. The support group arranged for members of the congregation to assist with set up, food service and clean up. In addition the support group arranged for Wards Restaurant to provide fresh baked pies for the four luncheons which were attended by over 220 residents.

During the Christmas season the support group arranged for the set up and decoration of Christmas trees in each building and the gazebo. In addition, we displayed the large wreaths made several years ago by St. Michael youth. The wreaths are displayed in the entrance hallways of each building. Outdoor lighting was strung on 10 trees located across the Luther House campus. The St. Michael Saturday morning men's Bible study group put up the outdoor lighting, while Luther House residents decorated the trees. These groups also served as volunteers to take down decorations after the holidays. Thanks to Steve Lacombe, Jane Kramer, Pat Hamilton and many other church members and residents for their support of these activities.

Also during the Christmas season the support group prepared Christmas cards for the approximately 280 residents of Luther House. Each Christmas card contained a \$10.00 Giant gift card provided by funding from the Social Ministry Committee and the church's Giant gift card program. The committee thanks Karen Markey and Mary Ann Knechtel for distributing the Christmas cards.

The support group wishes to thank all the members of St. Michael who support our ministry at Luther House.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce D. Beitler, Luther House Support Committee



MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL GIFTS REPORT – 2017

Memorials have been given in the past year for Dr. Robert Forney, Elaine Fling, Norman “Pete” Bodine, John Singer Jan Morabito, Marie Knebel, Philip Mathias, Shirley Mathias, Helene Stiller, Tony Rossi, and John Rundquist. Special Gifts have been given to Honor the Tom Horne family, Pastor Dan Bodine, and George and Kammy Franz.

Items purchased with M&SG funds include St. Michael monogrammed aprons for kitchen workers, outdoor seasonal flowers and plants, the Johannes Brass Quintet at Easter and Christmas, and art work for the Archangel Café.

Following the receipt of a Memorial or Special Gift an acknowledgement card is sent to families and individuals. The giver, if not a St. Michael member, also receives an acknowledgement card. If given by a member of St. Michael, the report in the ARCHANGEL HERALD as well as the financial statement serves as a receipt and acknowledgement. Many thanks to Sandy Cordani and Mary Ann Knechtel for serving on the Team as we consult to utilize monies given for M&SG.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Wika



MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT - 2017

The Mutual Ministry Committee communicated throughout the year with Pastor Rick and Pastor Adrienne. We meet regularly with the pastors, both individually and as a group. Members of the committee also check periodically with our Church Secretary and Director of Music. We are consistent in our concern for the spiritual, emotional and personal needs of our pastors and lay professionals. Our commitment to serve to this end will continue as our congregation moves forward with the mission of “Following Christ’s Example, Welcoming All, Strengthening Each Other, Serving the Community”.

Recognizing the value of open communication concerning attitudes, conditions and needs within the congregation, we continue to encourage you to ask questions and share insights that might benefit our congregation regarding the work of our pastors and staff. Please feel free to contact any of our committee members to share your thoughts.

The ministry of our pastors, lay professionals and the congregation of St. Michael is strengthened by this committee's focus on supporting and building mutual ministry within a trusting and confidential environment. Our deepest appreciation is extended to our staff for their hard work and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Ross, Chair



SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM REPORT – 2017

Our theme for 2017 was “Servant to All”. “Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’ *Mark 9:35*

The objective of the Social Ministry Team is to encourage members of St. Michael to periodically turn the focus of our congregation outward and to serve our local community, Chester County, the United States and the world. The Social Ministry Team works with members of St. Michael to initiate, coordinate, and celebrate the abundance of volunteering time, financial donations and talents that St. Michael members use to help others.

The church provides a portion of its budget for Social Ministry giving. In 2017 the leadership of St. Michael set a goal to allocate 10% of the overall budget to Ministry to Others. We are pleased to report that we will disburse financial support to the organizations and agencies mentioned in this report at the 10% goal level.

At least as important as our financial donations are the many other ways St. Michael members continued to support our community this year. We want to express our gratitude to members of our congregation who volunteered. We are also excited about the teamwork and sharing of resources with and among other St. Michael committees. Much was accomplished as shown below in the following highlights:

- Our Spring and Fall Blood Drives
- Our Work Day Saturday Projects
- The Yard Sale to benefit the Chester County Migrant Ministry

All of the efforts and successes above are due to the congregation’s great participation and support.

There are more “helping others” accomplishments by St. Michael in 2017:

- The Heating Assistance Fund continued during the winter months. The funds raised were donated to Kennett Area Community Service (KACS).
- Homelessness kits were provided for the Synod collection during the Lenten season.
- Thanksgiving meal bags were filled with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal. KACS provided the turkey and picked up the bags during the week before Thanksgiving.
- We collected and distributed gifts to approximately 75 Migrants again this year.
- The donation of numerous canned and dry goods to our food closet and “Stuff the Truck” events are used by the Kennett Area Food Cupboard during special food drives and throughout the year.

Of course there are many more activities including Mother’s Day blankets, Giant gift cards, Luther House activities, and many other ways that St. Michael reaches out to others in our community who may be in need.

Family Promise, a Project to Assist Local Homeless Families

St. Michael continued to be a Support Church for Family Promise, which specializes in working with local churches and other community groups to provide temporary housing for families. As a Support Church, we worked with the Church of the Vineyard at the Barn every 13 weeks and assisted with providing food and people to assist homeless families in our area. Family Promise of Southern Chester County has been in operation for two years. Many volunteer hours and effort have gone into serving 34 homeless families, consisting of 44 adults and 82 children.

Rise Against Hunger

For the second year, we worked with Rise Against Hunger, aka Stop Hunger Now to host a meal packaging event at St. Michael to stop global hunger and malnutrition. The culmination of the summer fund raising, which brought in \$2400 occurred on October 22 when over 130 members of St. Michael created an assembly line and packaged over 20,088 meals within two hours. These meals fed school children in Zambia. Everyone found the event to be fulfilling in many ways, creating a spirit of community, teamwork and ministry.

Agencies and Charities that St. Michael Supported in 2017

We provide financial support to many community groups and agencies. The following organizations received funding from St. Michael through the budget line item *Ministry to Others* or the *Lutheran Community Services* line item:

After the Bell	Provides supervised after-school program of skill-developing activities for Kennett Middle School students
Camp Dreamcatcher	For kids who are confronted with AIDS
Chester County Migrant Ministry	Helps local Latino residents with food, housing supplies, and general care
Community of Love	ELCA congregation in Oxford, PA
The Garage	Christian outreach for local youth to encourage them scholastically and emotionally
Good Neighbors	A Christian agency whose mission is to make families in need have homes that are warmer, safer and drier, in Southern Chester County
Heimberger Mission	Support for Jim and Robin Heimberger's missionary efforts in Mexico
Family Promise	Works with local churches and other community groups to provide temporary housing for families
Kennett Area Community Services	Crisis services for families who are in need of food, clothing, lodging, heat or rent. Includes Kennett Area Food Cupboard
Kennett Area Senior Center	Provides socialization, meals and exercise for seniors in the Kennett area
La Comunidad Hispana	Service to Latinos and other vulnerable Chester County residents through health care, counseling, and educational services
Oxford Neighborhood Services Center	Provides information and referral to services; also provides food, clothing, rental and utility assistance to people in crisis

St. Michael gifts also supported many other area programs through our contributions to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The congregation generously responded to hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and wildfires in California, giving over \$1600 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

The Social Ministry Team meets throughout the year and we are thankful for everyone's efforts.

Members: Pastor Adrienne Meier, Pat Bodine, Annette Bowers, Norm Cochran, Dan Folmar, Eric Folmer (youth representative), Rick Huneke (chair), Sue Rossi, Stacy Starr, Leann Summa (Council liaison), and Jessica Wilson.

The Social Ministry Team is always open to new ideas and is actively seeking volunteers for our goal of ministry to others. If you're interested in learning more, talk to a member of the committee. Looking ahead to 2018 we plan to continue our work. We are interested in ideas and input from St. Michael members on how this can be accomplished.

Respectively submitted,
Rick Huneke



TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE 2017

The Technology Committee is responsible for identifying opportunities to utilize new technology at St. Michael. This might include new personal computers, new software applications, or new audio/visual (A/V) capabilities. We also coordinate the installation of the technology, and we do our best to maintain it after it's up and working.

Over the past year, we brought in a sound system expert to help us improve the sound in the hallways and the narthex. That work was completed near the end of the summer, and we hope you've noticed a significant improvement. Additionally, Council has recently approved a project to upgrade to our wireless network system. This should improve the bandwidth available to mobile devices and the quality (and reliability) of our digital signage.

Ours is a small but dedicated group. Each member has skills in particular areas, and we complement each other fairly well. Current members include: Pastor Rick, Vinci Felix, and J R Thornton. We are always looking for new members, so please let me know if you're interested in joining us.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Folmar, Chairman



YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT – 2017

This summer, the council approved a memorandum of understanding with the Episcopal Church of the Advent regarding youth and confirmation ministries. The combined youth group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, in addition to regularly scheduled social and service events. Some events are also held jointly with students from our confirmation ministry. Attendance has been low and sporadic, but as we continue to focus on community and relationship building, we are hopeful that this ministry will make a lasting impact on the young people who participate. We hired four peer ministers, including St. Michael's own Abigail Keiser. These students attend the majority of youth events; serve as a liaison between the students and the pastors and youth steering committee; and are chief inviters of the youth group. The students receive a stipend of \$500 at the end of the program year. A steering team was formed - constituting three members of each congregation and the appropriate council liaisons. Currently, the team is discerning a vision and mission for the combined youth and confirmation ministry. Representing St. Michael are Bill Morrison, Jenny Sheckells, Tony Summa, and council liaison Brian Keefer. The combined youth ministry still seeks a name.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Adrienne Meier



WOMEN OF ST. MICHAEL REPORT - 2017

The Women of St. Michael is a group open to all women who are interested in extending the reach of our congregation beyond the boundaries of our property. We implement this outreach through relationships that we have established over a long period of time. Benefits of these relationships extend in both directions: to those we serve and to us as we carry out our mission.

We enjoy interacting with residents of Pocopson Home and Twin Pines Health Care Center through sing-alongs. It's rewarding and inspiring to see some people who, we are told, seldom speak, join in singing old favorite songs or hymns. We also contribute requested items to these facilities as needs occur.

Decorating Christmas trees for and with facilities has long been a favorite activity. Each December members travel to Friends Home in Kennett Square, bringing Christmas ornaments made by our members to decorate one of their many trees. We then follow up with singing Christmas carols together. Pocopson Home also receives the benefit of our tree-decorating service while the residents of the four buildings at Luther House have now taken responsibility for decorating their trees, using ornaments collected by our group through the years.

We return to Friends Home each Spring to help them present their Mother's Day Tea, bearing centerpieces made by our group to grace the tables. We then stay and share the tea experience and entertainment they provide.

A favorite project benefits the college students of our congregation with the assembling and mailing of College Care packages to the students to let them know they are remembered by their home congregation. Our thanks to the Social Mission Committee for helping us with funds for mailing these packages.

Our need for and appreciation of fellowship within our group is met by our annual Salad and Dessert luncheon at the church in June as well as the Christmas lunch at Longwood Family Restaurant on tree-decorating day.

We invite all women to join us in any or all of these activities. Our meetings are on the first Thursday of the month, from September or October through June, and are announced in the bi-monthly Herald and the weekly Archangel bulletin insert. You are welcome!

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Hillegass
Coordinator



WORSHIP AND MUSIC TEAM - 2017

As some of the main expressions of our Christian faith, worship and music remain central to the life of the St. Michael congregation. Our regularly scheduled worship services provide a time and place for Christ's people to come and be nourished by the Almighty God through the Word and the Sacrament. It is here that we respond through word and music with prayer, praise, thanksgiving, and adoration.

St. Michael approaches worship in a traditional Lutheran way, while continuing to introduce new liturgies and music without disrupting the rich heritage of our Lutheran tradition. From September to May we hold two services on Sunday at 8:00 and at 10:30 while during the summer we meet for one service on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. followed by a time for fellowship. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sunday of every month as well as at all festivals. There has been some discussion of moving to every Sunday Communion, but the discussion has been tabled until we can engage and enlist more volunteers to serve on the Altar Guild.

Our Worship and Music Team is a dedicated group of members that meets bi-monthly to ensure that we provide opportunities for worship that will stir, deepen, and, perhaps at times, challenge us to explore the pathways of our faith.

Planning and study help us offer ways to enrich the worship experiences we offer. Current Team members are: Pastor Rick, Linda Lorgus, Linda Porter, Mark Swanson (Chair), Peryl Marteny, Diana Roberts, Sheila and Rick Wetzel, and Richard Streamer.

Our music ministry at St. Michael continues to be an area that we look to grow while enhancing our worship experience. Linda Lorgus leads our music ministry with continual creativity and tireless dedication. This year we have added a Children's Bell Choir (Genesis Bells) to go along with our Jubilation Ringers (Adult), and the Vivace Ringers (Youth). These bell choirs and special music Linda enlists during the summer and for special services, profoundly amplify our worship and praise and provide for a deeper and more meaningful worship experience for everyone participating in the service. Linda is always ready to welcome new recruits to the music program so please consider joining one of the many choirs she has available.

Additionally, we are in need of volunteers interested in learning to serve on the Altar Guild. The Altar Guild facilitates our worship experiences by preparing the altar for worship each week, including setting up for communion and baptisms, caring for the candles and linens, and changing the paraments. If you are interested, we can partner you with a current member of the Altar Guild. Please contact Debbie Schultz or the Church Office if you would like to be a part of this valuable service to the church.

The Worship and Music Team assisted the church staff during the year as we sought to further deepen and enrich our worship experiences. The highlight this year was the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. "Celebrating 500 Years, 1517-2017" was a time for reflection on the rich history of the church, but also a chance to look forward to what lies ahead for all of us. On Reformation Sunday, we held one service of celebration at 9:30 a.m. with Holy Communion. We provided commemorative items lifting up this special day. A congregational breakfast followed worship with the help of the Fellowship Team. The event was so successful, the committee has decided to designate Reformation Sunday as a one service Sunday to enable us to use it as a teaching event to further the importance of Martin Luther and the Reformers. Please keep the Worship and Music Team in your thoughts and prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Rick

