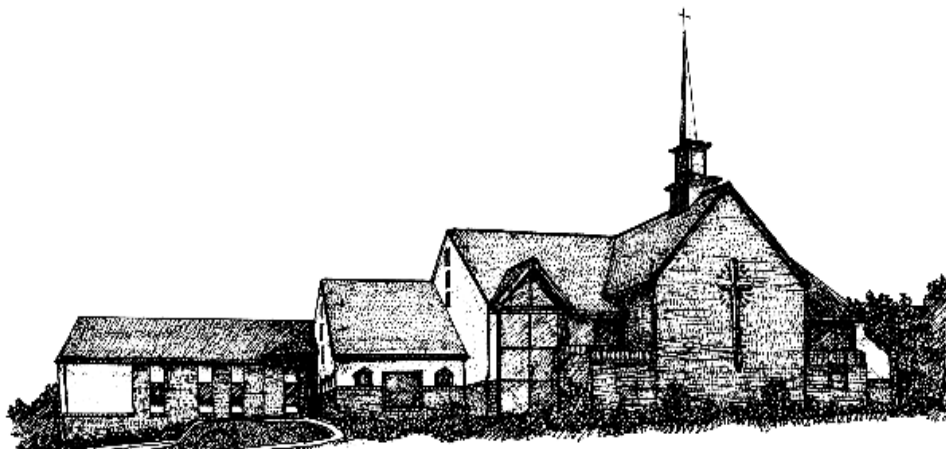


ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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.

Our Mission:

“Following Christ’s Example, Welcoming All, Strengthening Each Other, Serving the Community”

2019 ANNUAL REPORTS

Report of the Senior Pastor - 2019

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.” – I John 1:1

Dear Friends,

It is a joy to write to you as your pastor and a privilege to walk with you in ministry. As I reflect on 2019, know that there is no such thing as “business as usual” around a church. While many of our ministries in 2019 mirrored our ministries in previous years, every effort throughout the year was made to reach new people with the good news that is ours to share and to offer our very best to every age and group. How could we be satisfied with anything less, given that it is God whom we serve!

Every day is a gift from God. Every day is a fresh opportunity to make a new connection – with a church member, with a neighbor, with the biblical text – and every day is another occasion to live into being the people God creates us and calls us to be, people who seek to live faithful lives, people who show love and pursue justice, people who demonstrate patience and compassion in dealing with another’s foibles, and people who continually express gratitude to God. Every day and every act of ministry – each worship service, each pastoral interaction, each act of service, each class taught, even each committee meeting and every event added to the church calendar -- give a new opportunity to see God at work among us. St. Michael is a beautiful communion of God’s people. We have a diversity of backgrounds, experiences and opinions. We have known God’s presence in our lives in a variety of ways and felt God’s call to serve in many different avenues. This is powerfully borne out every time you step forward to serve in a program, a ministry that calls to your heart to be involved with others. God works in each of our lives ... sometimes quietly, sometimes dramatically, and God gives us all gifts to use in doing the Lord’s work. Together we carry out ministry in God’s name in Southern Chester County and well beyond.

What a year! 2019 was an interesting year at St. Michael, which you will soon see on the pages that follow. For me, the Summit Event, a two-day coming together of many members of St. Michael to share thoughts of the past, present, and future was so special. It was full of processing heartaches and hurts, growth and good times as well as embracing new ideas, and current programming that needs some revision and fine-tuning. It was an opportunity to consider former, current, and potential future staff and ministry while trusting in the gracious love of God. It was an event that reminded me of the importance of telling and sharing our stories. It reminds me of what we’ve learned over the years and how we’ve become a joyous part of the larger story of God’s love in the world.

Recently a friend of mine mentioned a daily devotion book called *“Savor: Living Abundantly Where You Are, As You Are”* by Shauna Niequist. What’s interesting is the book plays off of cooking. Cooking – of all things. It uses cooking in a different way – a way to remind the reader of the joy of “savoring” each moment, each meal, each table at which God’s people are gathered as we proclaim the Word of life. The introduction reads:

“What I want to do is savor this life – my life, my children, my community, this gorgeous world God created. That’s what we all want, right? To soak up the goodness all around us, to be aware of holy fingerprints everywhere, to walk through each day expecting and noticing those glints and shimmers of the divine right in the daily – in a hug, a tomato sandwich, a quiet moment, a text from someone we love.

That’s what I want, and so often I miss it. I lay in bed at night frustrated with myself that I allowed the minor annoyances of life to obscure the rich melody underneath it. I rush and push and don’t even see the beauty all around me. I let my fear about the unknowns in our future or my desire to control everything and

everyone around me cover over the deep beauty and grace and peace that are playing like a drumbeat under everything.

This collection of daily devotions is my attempt at paying attention, at clearing away space and noise, and inviting you to hear the drumbeat, too. God's always speaking, always. God's always moving, always present, always creating, always healing. The trick, at least for me, is paying attention. The trick is savoring."

Why do I share this with you at the close of one year and the beginning of another? Because as we have been wandering through the Long-Range Planning process in 2019, the Summit event was eye-opening for me. We try so hard each year to outdo the year before, move on from ministry programs that were successful but not so "exciting" or "flashy" ... but did we ever hear that drumbeat under everything? Do we pay attention, are we aware of the holy fingerprints awaiting our discovery?

Savoring. Paying attention. Seeing the divine in the daily. Participating at the table. Hearing and sharing the stories of God's love and grace with those around us. In the narthex after church, in the classroom, in the office, in the parking lot, in the fellowship hall, on the phone, in a text message, in an email, in a smile, a handshake, a hug! This is the work of the church. This is the drumbeat that we are a part of through the ministry of St. Michael Lutheran Church.

Now is the time to look back, remember and savor the memories and learnings from 2019. Let us take this time to learn from our mistakes as well as celebrate the new joys and hopes that God has provided through St. Michael's ministry. And then we are invited into 2020's new hopes and adventures!

2020 will bring continued work from our strategic planning process in the ministry areas of Christian education, worship, and service within and outside our church. It will also usher in new and revised ways to communicate with each other ... a refreshed website, streaming worship services, and perhaps it is time to explore more fully a digital newsletter that is accessible online. In 2020 we will be invited to savor our God moments as we live our story as a church and community.

Thanks be to God for this place, our work together, this congregation, this ministry, and these moments to savor and pay attention to in the next year.

In closing, I want to thank our church staff ... my colleagues in ministry, Adrienne, Dan, Linda, and Bonnie. The care, attention and dedication that they give to this congregation, and how it is lived out through their work is a blessing to us all. I pray that we not take it for granted.

God has called us to be disciples of Christ ... a vibrant, passion-filled community of faith. Savor what God is doing at St. Michael. May God continue to bless our people and the ministry placed before us. My prayer for you is to continue to find new and varied ministries where we can share Jesus and His love with others.

Your Partner in Mission and Ministry,

Pastor Rick

SENIOR PASTOR'S STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2019

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership end of 2018	1239	937
Members received – 2019		
By Baptism/Child	2	
By Baptism/Adult		
By Affirmation of Faith		10
By Transfer- Lutheran congregations	24	18
By Transfer- non-Lutheran congregations	16	9
Members removed – 2019		
By Transfer	2	2
By Request		
By Death	9	9
Membership end of 2019	1270	963
Confirmed Members who communed:	422	
Unconfirmed who communed:	42	
Average Weekly Worship Attendance:	198	



REPORT OF THE PASTOR – 2019

Recently, I read a story that went like this: everyone should have two pockets containing two pieces of paper. One paper reads, “I am but ash.” The other reads, “For my sake the world was created.” The first is a line from Genesis; the other is from the Talmud. The idea is that when we are feeling proud, we should read the first statement. But when we are feeling disheartened, we should read the second statement. Similarly, I remember my chaplaincy supervisor telling me that I needed to keep contact with both my inner critic and my inner cheerleader, but to never let one voice drown out the other. We have entered 2020 in a bit of uncertainty. Pr. Rick is away on leave. We hold before us a budget with a deficit greater than what any of us would prefer. But the world was formed for our sake. Luther gives us this source of hope: “we are called, gathered, enlightened, and made holy by the Holy Spirit.”

There is a great deal to be hopeful about in the new year. Our Summit has provided us with a number of great ideas and great starting places – worship and websites, youth ministry councils and needs ministries. It has also uncovered an increasing number of members of our congregation who are passionate about sharing the good news with their gifts and talents. As you read about 2019 below, many of these ministries will continue in 2020. As of this writing, I am hoping to expand on some successes in 2019. We’ve had increased engagement with our Facebook page, so I am hoping to expand that ministry beyond information to formation. For example, I am currently planning a three session Facebook Live/Watch adult forum (to explain the jargon: the video would be posted to Facebook and I would engage with people in the comments section). We are planning to write our own VBS curriculum again, this time on the theme *For the Beauty of the Earth*, using biblical stories with animals.

Looking back at 2019, it was a year all about community. We cared for the community at St. Michael with our first annual BBQ, the introduction of Second Saturdays at St. Michael (a Summit proposal), hosting our annual Blue Christmas service, updating our Nursery Policies and Procedures, hiring our new Nursery Caregiver, Ms. Lena Manning, and continuing our Rally Day picnic tradition. This year, I introduce two new confirmation requirements to further incorporate young people in our congregation: confirmands and a parent complete an interview with me and create a tri-fold “About Me” board for display on Confirmation Sunday. We continue confirmation retreats to build community among these students and introduce a love of life-long faith formation. In Lent, I created a youth devotion delivered via Remind that inspired a community-created Advent devotion and a community Christmas video.

2019 was also a year of growing and continued involvement in our community. Our middle school aged youth went on a Mission Trip to Washington, D.C, and our high school youth worked with Good Neighbors to re-side and replace windows in a home in Avondale. We provided over 18,000 meals for a community in Zambia through Rise Against Hunger. We Stuffed the Truck – twice – and that doesn’t include the Thanksgiving bags and the Giant Gift Cards we provided to our partner, Kennett Area Community Service. We provided a service of Remembrance for All Saints at Luther House. We delighted strangers with our Beer and Hymns and Beer and Carols (and every time, we emerge with a story about someone who was there quite by accident, and heard just what their heart needed).

In 2019, I attended several continuing education events including courses on Hybrid Faith Formation, Civil Conversations, and Godly Play. I was named a Lewis Fellow at Wesleyan Seminary in Washington, D.C. which enabled me to travel to Washington, D.C., Miami, and Kansas City to hone my pastor skills in 2018 and 2019. I served on the synod’s Reference and Council Committee and I completed a mock interview at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Lionville (a process that resulted in calling my predecessor at St. Michael, Rev. Brad Burke!). Together with our VBS leaders, we wrote our own curriculum this year. I have had the opportunity to support our newly-seminary-graduated Andrea Loveland as she has served at Community of Love in Oxford. I have represented St. Michael as a speaker at Community Bible Study and

West Chester University. I was particularly proud of the adult forums I held in 2019: on Women and Justice in the spring and on How to Vote Like a Lutheran in the fall.

Looking back reminds us that the work of the church continues. In 2020, we will baptize, welcome to the table, confirm, marry, and bury. We will live more fully into our call to be a community, to be one in Christ, to care for one another, the poor, and the world God has made for our sake.

To God be the glory,
Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Adrienne



REPORT OF THE MUSIC DIRECTOR - 2019

St. Michael's Music Ministry continues to be both challenging and rewarding!

Most rewarding is how choir members interact and support each other through music and fellowship. Choirs are the perfect example of 'small group' ministry, where they not only minister to the congregation, but are ministered to, in turn, by the fellowship within the choir. We pray together, talk with and support each other, and enjoy laughter and camaraderie in addition to making music.

Most challenging is trying to present consistently good worship music when choir numbers fluctuate so much week to week. I appreciate those who come regularly, understand when absences are necessary, but also struggle with finding ways to best utilize the time and talent available any given week. But even with the challenges, there is joy in the work, and many special moments throughout the year. Chancel Choir, Matins Choir, Vivace Youth Ring and Sing Choirs, Genesis Ring and Sing Choirs, plus our Jubilation Ringers, regularly participate in worship. Here are some of our special moments:

- This year's Christmas cantata service, "A Blest Messiah Born," was held on December 22nd. The Cantata Choir of 51 singers began rehearsals in early November. The children, youth, and bell choirs rehearsed separately. Instrumentalists Mindy Bowman (flute), Carole Armstrong Lovelace (violin), Dana Amana (viola), Naomi Gray (cello), Joe Eckman (trumpet), Ron Evans (trombone), Bonnie McDonald (French horn), Ron Bellamy (clarinet and handbells), Eric and Dan Folmar, (percussion) and Karen Markey at the piano provided inspirational accompaniment. Lanny Lewis led the service, and members of the Genesis Children's Choir narrated the cantata itself. The logistics of creating the 'cantata service' are many (thanks to the volunteers who helped move chairs, risers, platforms and bell tables multiple times, and to the office staff who helped prepare the programs,) but the satisfaction of presenting this special musical worship service is great.
- Besides singing every Sunday morning from September to May, the Chancel Choir led evening services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Easter Sunday was bright with joyful music presented by brass, bells, choirs and organ.
- Many children of the church presented the musical, "Oh, Jonah" on May 12th. This is a big event for our children, with extra rehearsals on Sunday afternoons in addition to the regular Tuesday rehearsals.
- Men's Choir sang in January and again in June. We have many fine basses and tenors!

- The Matins Choir, Chancel Choir, and Jubilation Ringers held their second annual Choir Banquet in June, at the Kennett Square Country Club.
- The Vivace Youth Handbell Choir attended the Area 2 Handbell Festival held in Lancaster, PA in June. They attended classes and rehearsals, and led worship for all the attendees, ringing and singing for the service. They were also featured performers at the closing concert. St. Michael should be proud of these young people and the way they represent our congregation.
- Instrumentalists and other musicians joined us in worship throughout the year. We enjoyed the gifts of Janet Witman on harp, Joe Eckman and Katie Soucup on trumpet, Ron Bellamy on handbells, Carole Armstrong on violin, and the Johanness Brass on Christmas Eve.

One issue of concern is that some of our instruments are beginning to show their age.

- The organ, which was installed in 1997, has had some problems in recent years. Two years ago, the ‘mother board’ was replaced, the foam cones inside the speakers were replaced, and in the past year, twice, the organ emitted loud buzzing which required some of the cards controlling the stops on the console to be replaced. Hopefully these fixes will ensure continued use of the instrument for a long time to come.
- This past fall, the digital piano in the Fellowship Hall stopped working, which will require a replacement in the coming year. There is also a need for a lower console in the choir room. These are needs that came to our attention recently, so we will pursue options in the coming months.

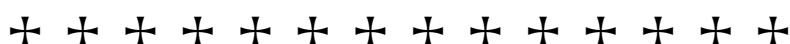
There are many who help make the music program run smoothly. Nancy Wenrich and Heidi Furr have helped keep the music library in order. Linda and Larry Porter fill in any gaps needed with the adult handbells. Sheila Wetzel finds choir robes for youth and newcomers. Bonnie McDonald helps with special programs.

In addition to the regular helpers, special thanks go to...

- Michal Rittler, who has video recorded many musical events of the past few years and has created a Youtube channel for any who would like to revisit some of those special musical moments. You’ll find special Sunday services, Christmas cantatas, the children’s musicals, the youth bells at the festival, etc. The channel is: SMLC Music - Unionville, PA. Thank you, Michal!
- Rob Furr, who substituted so ably at the organ while I was away with our youth and on vacation. Rob generously donates his time and talent and is very much appreciated.
- Janet Parks, who researched all the possible options and then single handedly (okay, Joe helped) took all the choir room and conference room chairs to be reupholstered. Janet, for all you do to make my job easier, thank you!!!

And finally, 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lorgus, Director of Music



REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT – 2019

The immeasurable hours of dedication generously given by the members of Saint Michael are astounding! The pages that follow in this report shed but a mere glimmer of light on all that we do in service as Disciples of Christ.

This year our stewardship theme built upon Winne the Pooh and Friends' *Generosity* to ask you, along with Mr. Rogers, "*Won't you be my neighbor*"?

I am delighted to report that the collective faith we demonstrated in passing the 2019 budget was well founded. The 2019 offering surpassed the 2018 offering by a narrow margin. Your generous giving made it possible to offer worship services, Christian education, nursery care and countless programs to our congregation and the community at large.

We are again asking you to prayerfully and faithfully consider passing an aggressive budget for 2020. It is a commitment to what we value, that we value the well-being of our congregation's ministers and staff, we value the spiritual health of each other and we value giving care to the members of our community.

"It must be borne in mind that the tragedy of life does not lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach." – Benjamin Mays

Council along with all of you are: setting goals, mapping the path forward, and striving to serve Christ, for the next decade and generations to follow.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet A. Parks
Council President



ALTAR CARE TEAM REPORT 2019

I am pleased to report there are 13 women who are on the Altar Care team. We are always looking for others – including men and teens – to join the team. It is a great way to meet St. Michael members.

This past year, Emily Singer, Pastor Rick, and Janet Weber revised the Altar Preparation and Clean-up instructions.

A BIG thank you goes to Sandy Cumbaa, Lois Haldeman, Judy Harkins, Sandy Johnson, Arlene Kozlowski, Karen Liska, Nancy Michel, Diana Roberts, Janet Robinson, Emily Singer, Kathy Streamer & Janet Weber for giving their time to the St. Michael Altar Care Team.

Respectfully,
Deb Schultz



BUILDING AND PROPERTY TEAM REPORT -2019

Thanks to Darwin's fastidiousness and record-keeping, taking over for B&P in July 2018, coming back up to speed was easy. Here are some highlights from 2019:

- The freezer was replaced. Although the new unit is a consumer model (as opposed to a commercial unit), B&P and frequent users of the kitchen felt this would serve our needs based on how it is used.
- Several of the sanctuary LEDs have been replaced by the installer. The manufacturer honored their warranty, so our costs were limited to labor (and rental of the lift).
- We have begun a program to replace fluorescent tubes with LED equivalents. As bulbs and/or ballasts fail, we will replace them with LED bulbs. Many thanks to Paul Kester for being our lighting specialist and taking care of the rewiring necessary to switch to LEDs. These LED replacements should last much longer than comparable fluorescent tubes. Moreover, ballasts are not needed with the LED bulbs, so we're eliminating another source of failure. It will take months or years until we are completely converted to LED, but we saw no reason to replace fluorescent bulbs and ballasts that are still working.
- In August, we replaced the kitchen oven/range. Although the old unit probably had many service years left, we determined that it presented a safety issue: the gas needed to be turned on, and all (9!) pilots needed to be manually lit every time a single burner, oven or the griddle was to be used. The new range works in a way that should be familiar to almost all of us: simply turn the dial, and the burner, oven or griddle lights automatically. No more playing with gas valves and lighting pilots. We were able to sell the old range to a local business who is putting it to the commercial use for which it was intended.
- The Fellowship Hall closet was completely cleaned out. An entire dumpster full of unclaimed "stuff" was removed, and the closet reorganized. Thanks in advance for keeping it that way!
- A leak in the roof above the preschool classroom was repaired.
- Lester Water and Crossan Plumbers were called in to diagnose the sulfur odor coming from the kitchen sink faucet. Lester has since done complete maintenance on the water system, including chlorinating the water heater that serves the kitchen. However, we are investigating a more complete fix to the sulfur odor, and that fix will hopefully be implemented in early 2020. This fix may include replacing the hot water heater, and will be funded from the Capital Reserve Fund.
- Going forward, Lester Water will provide quarterly routine maintenance to our water system in order to keep it in top shape.
- Church Mutual installed updated temperature, pipe and water sensors. These sensors allow for remote monitoring of conditions (freezing temperatures or pipes, water leaks) in critical locations around the church.
- We changed natural gas suppliers, resulting in about a 17% savings per ccf. The gas and electric supply contracts are now on the same calendar cycle and will be up for renewal (and hopefully additional savings) at the end of 2020.

Many thanks to Al Bergbauer, Ed Shultz, Paul Kester, Bill Vann and Joe Wilson for their help and input on keeping the building looking good and operating efficiently and safely. And thanks again to Darwin for taking such good care of our facility for so many years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Will Majarian



BUILDING & PROPERTY -FACILITIES USAGE REPORT 2019

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., the Red Cross Blood Drive, the choirs, A.A. & Al-Anon, Music at St. Michael Concert Series, Brandywine Valley Chorale, the "Seekers" Book Club, Longwood Organ Competition Competitors, Kennett Amateur Theatre Society, Unionville Grange, Unionville Fair Committee, Chester County Choral Society, Women's Christmas Tea and many others too numerous to mention.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Streamer, Facilities Usage Coordinator



CARING SHEPHERDS REPORT – 2019

This committed group of 17 folks continued their ministry to the Congregation in a variety of ways. Cards were sent; visits were made; meals were provided; prayers were offered and, because of the creative work of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, shawls were distributed. Furthermore, with the help of the Congregation, Caring Cards were sent to many members.

There was a downside this year. We lost the services of two of the Shepherds. The passing of Pat Bodine left big holes in our ministry and hearts. Andrea Loveland graduated from seminary and went on to another ministry at Community of Love in Oxford. However, we were blessed to have Lanny Lewis agree to be our newest Caring Shepherd.

Please know that every member of St. Michael has a Caring Shepherd who is willing to pray for you, laugh with you, share your joys and sorrow. To do this you must keep them informed. If you don't know who your Caring Shepherd is, call me or the Church Office. If you don't know what your Caring Shepherd looks like, check the bulletin Board at the top of the ramp.

My sincere gratitude, and that of the Congregation, goes to Bunny Cameron, Carol Davies, Sue Fisher, Many Ann Knechtel, Jaymie Laycombe, Lanny Lewis, Diana Roberts, Debbie Schultz, Joan Scone, Emily Singer, Ruth Smith, Kathy and Dick Streamer, Barb and Bill Vann, and Jimi-Lee Weber.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kammy Franz



CHILD CARE COMMITTEE REPORT – 2019

The child care program for Saint Michael received a major overhaul in 2019. Because the child care policy was outdated a Nursery Attendant Task Force was formed to write a new policy, address compliance with current Pennsylvania law, best industry practices (electronic sign-in), and the needs and desires of users of our child care.

At the end of this process a search for a new nursery caregiver was conducted and we are happy to welcome Lena Manning to Saint Michael. A volunteer is also in the nursery each Sunday with Lena and the children.

A new component to nursery is a structured time that is included for age appropriate Christian education in addition to supervised play.

A great deal of thanks goes to Andrea Davis for her years of service as the Nursery Coordinator, and to each of the members of the nursery task force for their time and expertise in revamping our program.

Task Force Members:

Pastor Adrienne Meier
Sharon Caffrey
Karen DeRasmo
Tamara Acuna Wika
Charlene Dickens
Melanie Langhorne
Janet A. Parks

~ contributed by Janet A. Parks



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT - 2019

Adult Education

Adult Application Class:

In January/February we studied When God Doesn't Fix It by Laura Story -God may not fix everything in our lives. In fact, our situation might not ever change or get better. But we can know that God will lead us to a place where *we are better* because of it. In March we studied Eternity is Now In Session by John Ortberg – Ortberg led us through a radical rediscovery of what the Bible really says about salvation and showed us how to experience the unspeakably rich, interactive fellowship and joy that exist between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Eternal life—here, now, every minute of the day. In April/May we discussed A New Playlist: Hearing Jesus In A Noisy World by Jacob Armstrong – A Bible Study on the Sermon on the Mount. To begin the Fall, we studied Overcomer. Bestselling author Dr. David Jeremiah used Paul's instructions in Ephesians 6:10–18—his command for us to overcome the forces of evil by putting on the armor of God—to lay out a pathway for spiritual victory. Then in November/December we discussed How Happiness Happens. Bestselling author Max Lucado looked at several "one another" statements in the Bible that reveal how the happiest people on earth aren't those who have the most but are those who are willing to give the most away.

--contributed by Hank Fisher, Adult Education Coordinator

Adult Bible Study

In the rite for Affirmation of Baptism, confirmands and new members of the church are asked, “Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- To live among God's faithful people...
- To hear the Word of God...
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ...
- To serve all people...and
- To strive for justice and peace.

As we meet on Sunday mornings, the focus of our gatherings is, as St. Paul puts in his Letter to the Colossians, “*to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly.*” (Col 3:16) We dive a little deeper into the assigned Bible readings for the church year. We use reflections by seminary instructors and renowned preachers like Barbara Brown Taylor’s Home by Another Way, John Vannorsdall’s Dimly Burning Wicks, and Walter Brueggemann’s Interrupting the Silence. But the journey of sharing together in faith is much more about putting our own lives in perspective as we think together about the challenge of living our faith in a 21st century world.

During March and April, we will be using Pastor Walter Wangerin’s reflections on the Passion of Christ from Mark’s gospel. His book is entitled Reliving the Passion.

Feel free to join us whenever your schedule will allow.

-- contributed by Ray Foy, Adult Education Coordinator

Intergenerational Class

In the Fall of 2019, we studied the book of Job. In January 2020, we began a series on Sabbath. In November, the intergenerational class sponsored a one-session adult forum titled *How To Vote Like a Lutheran*. We hope to offer another adult forum in Spring 2020. In Lent (March and April) we’ll be discussing faith practice.

--contributed by Rev. Adrienne Meier

Wednesday Walk Bible Study

No one remembers for certain how many years Wednesday Walk has been meeting. It’s been at least 15 years with four different teachers and many different participants around the table.

Although the group does not actually WALK, it does study various aspects of the Bible. This year the group began by studying the many prophets, their importance, their “predictions”. Since September Pastor Dan Bodine has led the group through each week’s pericope. In other words, it’s a study of next Sunday’s readings.

Each session is filled with study, insights, personal experiences and fellowship, interspersed with lots of laughter. Additional “walkers” are always welcome. There’s always room around the table.

-- contributed by Kammy Franz

Sunday School-Faith Formation Program

The St. Michael Sunday School program continues its focus on the development of disciples from the earliest years of age through adulthood. When designing this year’s Faith Formation, we reflected on our previous curriculum and current population to inform our decisions. During 2019-2020, several key changes were made to meet the needs of our children. A redesign of the grades and classes has allowed us to better accommodate the ages and developmental levels of our children. We continue to group students according to ages and grade levels, but these may change depending on the size of our groups each year. This year we have age-specific classes for toddlers through sixth grade. Another significant change for 2019-2020 was the addition of several new Sunday School teachers! We are happy to welcome new teachers and substitutes in every class this year where teachers rotate or take turns in teaching the classes. This has been a great way to encourage collaboration and conversation about the Sunday School Program. Adding teachers has also given our youth a broader connection to adult members of St. Michael.

The curriculum we use is a varied approach from preschool through grade 6. It is based on the developmental needs and ages of the children in our Sunday School. It includes the following:

- Grades K and 1 use *Holy Moly*, an age-appropriate curriculum that covers both the Old and New Testaments.
- Grades 2 and 3 use *Whirl*, a curriculum that follows the lectionary.
- Grades 4 to 6 use *Connect*, a curriculum that follows the biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation over the course of two years.

We continue to review and reflect on our program as we progress through the year. Teachers are instrumental in providing feedback on the lessons and materials available. We recognize and appreciate the teachers’ time and enthusiasm with our children. These teachers are devoted to preparing weekly lessons and sharing the word and love of God. As volunteers, Sunday School teachers are instrumental in guiding the children in their discipleship, and we thank the teachers for their dedication. We continue to encourage members of St. Michael to join our team and assist in our Faith Formation Program. If anyone else feels called to lead our youth in this way, please let Pr. Adrienne or me know.

--contributed by Charlene C.Stone

Confirmation

In June, St. Michael Lutheran Church confirmed nine students. For the 2019-2020 program year, we continue to partner with the Episcopal Church of the Advent for confirmation ministry. St. Michael has fourteen students and three adult guides in the program. Pr. Greg Wilson left Church of the Advent in May, and Dr. Meredith Jankov has been coordinating confirmation and youth group on the COA side since then. 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 Spring 2019, we discussed the sacraments and other rites and how we live a Christian life. In the summer, we took a small group of young people to Washington, DC to work with the Youth Service Opportunities Program. We worked with several feeding and social service organizations in the DC metro area. In the Fall of 2019, we began tracing the biblical narrative, covering creation, the fall, the call of Abraham, Jacob wrestling with God, and the Exodus. In October 2019, we had our annual confirmation retreat at Camp Krichenwald in Lebanon, PA (this camp is affiliated with the ELCA). The retreat’s theme was The Life of Jesus. In Spring 2020, we continue our walk through the biblical narrative, spending two sessions on the 10 Commandments before moving into conversations about the prophets, the exile and return, Jesus’s parables, and the life of Paul.

--contributed by Rev. Adrienne Meier

First Communion

In 2019, First Communion classes were held in the spring. Eight students received their first communion after completing the course. The curriculum is based on Daniel Erlander’s book *A Place for You* and includes hands-on stations to spark faith-based discussions between students and parents. In 2020, the First Communion class will be on Sunday, March 29, 1-4pm, and students in second grade or higher will receive their first Communion at the service of their choice on Sunday, April 19.

--contributed by Rev. Adrienne Meier



COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE REPORT 2019



This past year was one that saw the completion of our Columbarium and Memorial Garden construction plan. The planning began in 2010, was approved by the congregation and dedicated in January 2013. From the beginning it was 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 Columbarium Perpetual Care account has been established with 15% of each niche and memorial plaque sale being placed in the account. To date a total of 44 niches and 12 memorial plaques have been purchased.

During 2019, long-planned additions to the site of the columbarium were completed. These additions provide additional accessibility for family and friends to feel near to loved ones and include a patio area where visitors may sit and reflect in prayer. In addition to the two new stone structures, each containing 48 niches, a 960-sq. ft. paver patio, a paver walkway from the church building, and a paver walkway from the parking lot to the columbarium were added. We felt it important to provide an easy access point from the parking lot for families wishing to visit any time. Additional landscaping and two benches were also added. The landscaping was accomplished by Soren Sheckells, a St. Michael member, as part of his Eagle Scout project.

In 2019 two committee members (Darwin Wika and Karen Markey) resigned from our Columbarium committee and two new members (Joe Parks and Kevin Witman) joined. I would like to thank both Darwin and Karen for their dedication, imagination, and work ethic that helped plan, design and realize the establishment of the Saint Michael Columbarium and Memorial Garden.

We continue to hold our price for niches in the 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 and 2018, and shipping costs have increased each year, our \$1,500 price is the total cost to purchase a niche. All niches can hold the cremains of two individuals and include opening and closing of the niche, granite faceplate engraving, up to two urns, and all shipping and handling charges. The only additional expense for a family is the actual cremation. Prices have not been established for the two new columbarium units and niches in these structures are not currently for sale. A review of the pricing of all niches began during 2019 and will be finalized during the first half of 2020.

In addition to niches, the St. Michael Columbarium Ministry offers families the option of memorializing loved ones with a plaque. These inscribed plaques are located on the back of the original Columbarium Wall, providing a meaningful way 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:
Joe Parks, Rick Wetzell, Kevin Witman, and Bill Vann



ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – 2019

Saint Michael Vanguard Endowment

ETF Name	Shares	Share Price	12/31/2019	12/31/2018	Gain
VDADX Dividend Appreciation Index	572.995	34.28	\$19,642.27	\$14,952.16	31.4%
VDIGX Dividend Growth Index	656.123	31.01	\$20,346.37	\$15,312.60	32.9%
VEIPX Equity Income Fund	490.572	38.08	\$18,680.98	\$14,871.96	25.6%
VWELX Wellington Fund	785.587	43.75	\$34,369.43	\$27,817.47	23.6%
Total			\$93,039.06	\$72,954.19	27.5%

The Endowment Fund is invested with Vanguard and is distributed amongst four Mutual funds focusing on dividend growth stocks, equity income and a balanced fund with both stocks and bonds. We began the year with \$72,954 and ended the year with \$93,039 for an appreciation of 27.5% which was in line with the appreciation of the general market.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hank Fisher and Art Knechtel



EVANGELISM TEAM REPORT - 2019

We are pleased to let you know we participated in the Kennett Square Memorial Day parade this year. The Kennett Parade Committee is already gearing up for the 2020 parade. We hope more of you will ride with us in the parade this May. A giant thank-you to Joe Wilson for providing the truck, hay bales and driver and for letting us decorate his truck with banners and bunting.

We provided refreshments for the Vacation Bible School evening closing program. We provided refreshments for the new member classes.

St. Michael sponsored coffee for the month of February at the Kennett Y.M.C.A. and the months of November & December at the Jennersville Y.M.C.A.

The Ladies Holiday Tea continues to be a well-attended event. This year had the highest attendance yet with 100 ladies enjoying the start of the Christmas season with tea, sandwiches and cookies. A hardy well done to the gentlemen for serving tea. I am eternally grateful to Rob Furr for playing piano during the festivities. The Unionville High School Glee Club provided the entertainment this year. Several members of the Glee Club are members of Saint Michael. Thank-you to Lauren Kester and Rachael Folmar for suggesting their club. The Young Moms organization was the recipient of the gift basket fund raiser and baby item donations again this year.

A Facebook ad about our Christmas Eve services ran for five days and postcards were sent to several recent visiting families. Postcards went out to those non-members that signed the friendship pads on Christmas Eve. We look forward to continuing these activities and adding more as we can recruit new team members.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet A. Parks, Council Liaison



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – 2018

The Fellowship Committee continues to be the small, but diligent, team 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 Congregational Meeting Brunch, Easter Brunch, and the Reformation Celebration Breakfast in October. 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 Committee, etc.). We are always ready to 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 participate and provide so many goodies for our events when the need arises.

Members of the Fellowship Committee also volunteer assist with funeral luncheons. Barb Vann and Debbie Parker are almost always a first-call for the office for these and other events. Thanks to these ladies and to anyone who answers their call willing to help or with a promise of covered dish.

While not strictly an activity of the Fellowship Committee, our new family-oriented Second Saturdays at St. Michael have provided many fun and memorable events for our congregation. If you haven't had a chance to attend one of these fantastic events, we hope you will. Thanks to Chris and Jess Church, Charlene Dickens, Melanie Langhorne, and Katie Majarian for their leadership and stewardship of this event.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Adrienne



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – 2019

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 2019, the Finance Team members included Janet Weber (Financial Secretary), Karen Liska (Treasurer), Steve Young, Ray Cumbaa, Randy Stone, and Dana Parker (Chair).

Some notes from the past year:

- The Finance Team monitored giving and expenditures throughout the year; no budget adjustments or additional appeals were necessary.
- The Stewardship Team continued to promote electronic giving through messages in the church newsletter and church bulletin inserts; more than 40 giving units now participate in the program.
- Working with the Ministry Teams, we developed a thoughtful proposal for the 2020 budget for Council review and approval.
- The number of giving units that pledged dropped from 63% in 2018 to 57% in 2019.
- Total giving increased while total spending decreased; as noted in the Treasurer's Report we finished the year with a small increase in the General Fund balance while making a small payment into the Reserve Fund.

Due to increased expenses anticipated for 2020 and the loss of some giving units (due to transfers or deaths), we will be closely monitoring the budget throughout the year. With your continued support through prayerful giving, I'm confident that St. Michael can meet the challenges of the coming year.

The Finance Team would like to thank all counting volunteers for their service throughout the year. And special thanks to Janet Weber and Karen Liska for their continued great work in support of the Finance Team.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dana Parker, Chairperson



**LUTHER HOUSE RESIDENT SUPPORT GROUP
ACTIVITIES REPORT – 2019**

During 2019 the St. Michael Luther House Support Group, with assistance from Luther Foundation and numerous 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 2019 members of the support group included Mary Ann Knechtel, Christi Wampler, Karen Markey, Carol Davies, Lois Halderman, 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 2019 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 2019. 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 24 the support group hosted the ninth annual summer picnic for Luther House residents. The event was again planned and managed by Janet and Joe Weber. 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 2020 the support group plans to again hold this event the weekend before Labor Day.

During 2019 the support group organized five bus trips for Luther House residents. Trips continue to focus more on entertainment venues and less on shopping outings. Destinations included Rainbow Comedy Playhouse, New Candlelight Theatre, Sight and Sound Theatre, American Music Theatre and Dutch Apple Theatre. 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 2, 3, 4 and 5 the support group hosted holiday luncheons served in each of the four Luther House buildings. Janet and Joe Weber 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. The luncheons were attended by approximately 180 people.

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. The Women's Group decorated the trees and also undecorated the trees after New Years Day. Thanks to Jean Hillegass and many other church members 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 daughter Jessica 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 By:
Bruce D. Beitler
Luther House Support Group



MEMORIALS & SPECIAL GIFTS ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

Memorials have been given for John Rundquist, Nancy Ross, Marbeth Wika, Anthony G. Rossi, Lois Hostetler, Betty & Jack Wusinich, John Cameron Jr., Gladys Kubik, Ryan Stacey, Muriel Rudershausen, Helen Burkhart, Kenneth Bowler, Pat Bodine, Claudette Langer, Donna Brown, and Jack Hillegass.

Special Gifts have been given to Honor George and Kammy Franz and Natalie Rae Carlino.

Items purchased with M&SG funds include Two Acolyte Candlesticks and Refillable Cappers, 12 Purificators, Travelling Communion Kits, 2 Flat Screen TV's and Stands, Outdoor seasonal Flowers & Plants and the Reupholster of Choir, Narthex and Conference Room Chairs. For the Columbarium, gifts have been received for benches, a watering station and landscaping.

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.

In March Sandy Cordani began sending the acknowledgements and record keeping of all Memorial and Special Gifts as well as acknowledgement for Columbarium Gifts. She also prepares the ARCHANGEL HERALD report.

Many thanks to Sandy Cordani and Mary Ann Knechtel for serving on the Team and to Pastor Rick as we consult to utilize monies given for M&SG.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Wika



MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM - 2019

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 Office Manager 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 – 2019

We will be your neighbor....

“Won’t you be my neighbor” was heard a lot this fall at St. Michael. Just as Mr. Rogers encouraged his friends to be neighbors, the Social Ministry Team encouraged 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 2019 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 and a third emergency Drive this summer
- Our Stuff the Truck events for the annual meeting and the summer kick-off.
- The Yard Sale to benefit the Chester County Migrant Ministry
- The Heating Assistance Fund continued during the winter months. The funds raised were donated to Kennett Area Community Service (KACS).
- Nearly 200 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. Additionally, we pitched in to restock following the fire at the Food Cupboard this fall.

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

Rise Against Hunger

For the fourth year, we worked with Rise Against Hunger to host a meal packaging event at St. Michael to stop global hunger and malnutrition. On October 20, over 130 members of St. Michael and friends created an assembly line and packaged over 18,000 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 2019

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
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
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services	Provides foster homes for unaccompanied minors; provides advocacy and legal services for immigrants; provide refugee relocation services.
Luther World Relief	Provides long-term sustainable development in countries throughout the world and short-term disaster response to international disasters
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 Social Ministry Team meets throughout the year and we are thankful for everyone’s efforts. We are saddened to lose Pat Bodine who joyfully served on the team and provided her help and insight.

Members: Pastor Adrienne Meier, Annette Bowers, Norm Cochran, Dan Folmar, Rick Huneke (chair), Doris Peterson, Sue Rossi, Stacy Starr, Leann Summa (Council liaison), Jessica Wilson and Tamara Wika.

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 2020 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 2019

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 sometimes coordinate the installation of the technology, and we do our best to maintain it after it’s up and running.

Beyond managing the quality of sound in our worship spaces, we have lately been investigating the possibility of livestreaming our worship service. Look for more information on that effort in the new year. If you are aware of any technology-related items that would enhance our worship service or any of the other ministries we support, please let one of us know.

Ours is a small but dedicated group. Each member has strong skills in particular areas, so we complement each other well. Last year we reorganized, and our team now includes Matt Meier, Michal Rittler, JR Thornton, Pastor Rick, and me. Don’t hesitate to talk to any of us if you have comments, suggestions, or if you’d like to join our committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Folmar, Chairman



WOMEN OF ST. MICHAEL REPORT - 2019

From its beginning the women's group has held service to the outside community as its purpose, and in fulfilling that goal it has experienced fellowship and fun. The 2019 season has been no exception to that rule.

We hope we have brought joy and to residents with our sing-along visits to Pocopson Home, Twin Pines, and Friends Home. We have chatted and laughed together as we made Christmas tree decorations and table centerpieces for Friends Home. Assembling and packing College Care boxes for St. Michael college students every February is a favorite project.

This group meets the first Thursday of most months from October to June. All women are welcome to join us.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Hillegass
Coordinator



YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT – 2018

Youth ministry continues to be a growing edge for our congregation. While we have many young people connected to our congregation and faithful in their worship attendance, participation in youth ministry continues to be low. Creation of Parent-Youth Council was a priority identified by the Summit Action Planning Group. As I consider what this might look like, it is likely this council will be made up of volunteers willing to take on specific responsibilities: mission trip planning, service events, fellowship events, devotions, and so on, along with at-large members. St. Michael continues to name responding to the needs of youth as one of its values. This seems to be a very important point of hope: in other places, generations are pitted against generations, but here, in this congregation, raising up disciples, fellow travelers in faith, is a high priority. May it guide us in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Adrienne Meier

