



# WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

If you have any questions about St. Michael,  
please contact Pastor John (office phone 951-8951; email: [pastorjohn@stmlc.us](mailto:pastorjohn@stmlc.us)).

## Worship

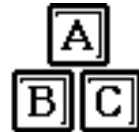
When you arrived at worship, the greeters handed you a **BULLETIN** with an order of worship for the service and information about the ministry of the congregation.

As you sat down, you noticed a **RED HYMNAL** in the rack in front of you. It's called **Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)** and is where you will find the service and the hymns for worship. One important hint in using the book is to note in the bulletin if you are given a page number or a hymn number. Page numbers are at the bottom of the page and mostly in the front of the hymnal while hymn numbers are at the top of the page and in the back of the hymnal.

The **SHARING OF THE PEACE** is an time during the worship service when we greet one another in the name of Christ by saying "Peace be with you."

Everyone is asked to complete the **WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL** insert in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate. If you have additional information you wish to share, please write it on the back. If you do not know someone sitting next to you, please introduce yourself following the service.

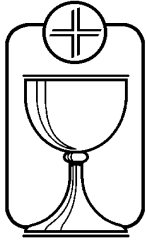
**CHILD CARE** for infants and small children is located down the hallway from the sanctuary. Turn down the hallway just past the large bulletin board and you will see the Nursery on your left. St. Michael has a full-time Child Care worker who is present each Sunday at both services.



### St. Michael's Mission Statement

As a community of believers guided by the Holy Spirit, the mission of St. Michael Lutheran Church is to:

- Care for all God's people in need,
- Hear of God's love through Word and Sacrament
- Respond to God's grace with thankful hearts,
- Invite others into Christ's community,
- Serve God in our daily lives, and
- Tell the story of God's love for all.



## Celebrating Holy Communion

**HOLY COMMUNION** is celebrated every Sunday at the 9 AM Service and on the first and third Sunday of each month as well as on Festival Sundays at the 11 AM Service. Here are some things to know about communion.

- All who believe and are baptized are invited to come forward and receive communion. You don't have to be Lutheran to receive communion.
- Please remember to indicate on the *Welcome to St. Michael* insert if you are receiving communion so that there will be a record of your communion. Place the *Welcome to St. Michael* insert in the offering plate. If you forget, give it to the usher and ignore the surprised look on his or her face. Yes, we do have female ushers as well as youth who usher.
- When you come forward for communion, you are invited to kneel or stand at the communion rail. If you are unsure when to come forward, follow the directions of the usher.
- St. Michael has grape juice available for those who cannot receive wine and gluten-free wafers for those who cannot ingest wheat. To receive the grape juice, simply say "Juice" when the communion server comes to you. To receive the gluten-free wafers, please talk to Pastor John.
- Children who have not received their first communion are encouraged to come forward with their parents. They will receive a blessing from the pastor. St. Michael teaches first communion classes with the whole family. If you have interested in having your child commune, please talk to Pastor John.

## Ministries of St. Michael

St. Michael's **CHORAL DIRECTOR** is Mr. Eric Young. He directs the Service Choir and a Handchimes Choir. The Service Choir practices on Thursday nights at 6:30 PM. Ms. Brandy Buckles is our accompanist.



**YOUTH NIGHT** meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays to provide programs for youth from Kindergarten through Senior High School. The Kid's Night Program for K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is led by Pastor John and Sheila McCartan. The Middle School and the Senior High program meets from 5 PM until 7 PM. The current meeting schedule is available on the church web site: [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES** include Sunday School, which meets at 9:50 AM from September to May, the Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 11 AM, an evening Bible Study once a month and numerous seasonal and short-term classes.

**CARING AND SHARING** includes helping and fellowship ministries of the congregation. The Caring and Sharing Team organizes and leads everything from the Thanksgiving Meal for the community to congregational picnics. The contact person for Caring and Sharing is Carol Crawford.

**SMALL GROUPS AT ST. MICHAEL** include the Women of the ELCA, the Lutheran Men in Mission, Senior Adult Fellowship groups and Dinner with Friends. The upcoming plans for these groups can be found in the newsletter.

**EQUIPPING YOUR TOOLBOX FOR A LIFE OF FAITH** is an on-going ministry which provides resources to help you build a whole, healthy life of

## Say What?

**Faithchest** - A chest given at baptism to hold a lifetime of faith memories.

**Baptismal Font** - Wooden holder (at front of Sanctuary) with a cross on the top which holds the water for baptisms.

**Narthex** - The gathering area in a church building. At St. Michael this includes the area by the front doors and the long hallway leading to the sanctuary.

**Sanctuary** - The space where people gather for worship.

**Church Year** - This is a calendar of events that Christians have followed for centuries. The first half of the church year deals with the life of Christ (birth at Christmas, resurrection at Easter, and much more), while the last half of the church year deals with the teachings of Jesus and the church (the Sundays after Pentecost). The **Paraments** are cloth hangings on the altar, pulpit and lectern that reflect the color of the seasons of the church year - white, red, green, blue and purple.

### Giving Opportunities

- **Current Fund** - is the general fund which supports the day to day operation and ministry of the congregation
- **Justice and Mercy Fund** - provides assistance with power bills, rent, food, and other needs in the community
- **Facilities Expansion Fund** - provides support for our Classroom Addition
- **Memorial Fund** - provides an opportunity to remember loved ones who have died
- **Property Maintenance Fund** - supports the on-going maintenance for the church building and grounds

**WELCA** - Women of the ELCA which is the name of our women's organization

**Congregational Council** - Members of the congregation who are elected to provide leadership and guidance for the life and ministry of St. Michael

**Virginia Synod** - The local ELCA partnership of 165 state-wide congregations of which St. Michael is a part.

**ELCA** - The **E**vangelical **L**utheran **C**hurch in **A**merica is the national body of over 5.1 million baptized members of which St. Michael is a part. New resources are constantly being made available.