

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 State Street Harrisburg, PA 17101-1024 (717)234-0092

March 2012

Volume 35, Number 3

The Archangel

You are welcome here with us

A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

God's time....calendar time.....times of journeys of faith.....times of ministries of givingtimes of fellowship and fun...these mark the calendar month of March.

March is a calendar "Sandwich Time." March 2012's calendar month is sandwiched between Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent on February 22nd and the first week of April, Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday April 1st and the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday April 8th.

THE THREE GREAT DAYS OF HOLY WEEK, APRIL 5-7 – A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HAWKINS

The Great Three Days are the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of "Holy Week." This year The Great Three Days are on April 5-7. On these three days the Church celebrates a worship service that takes three days to complete. These days are the most solemn and joyous of all the days in the Church calendar. This one church service that encompasses these three days is arguably the most important and most inspiring of any Christian celebration.

I invite you to prepare for these days (April 5-7, 2012) by clearing your schedule of all extraneous entanglements so you can enter into them unencumbered by distractions that would stand in the way of your experiencing all the Grace and Mystery these Three Days offer.

Whether you are young or old, currently active in the church or not, please set aside these Three Days. All of us should know that our presence for this one liturgy that lasts three days is not just by invitation. We are all needed here. All of us need this whole community together on these Three Days.

Maundy Thursday begins the Three Days. On this evening, after we listen to the scriptures, we do something unusual: we wash feet. Some of us get on our knees with pitchers of water and basins and towels. Jesus gave us this image of what the church should look like, and feel like and act like. This is the actuality of what the Christian life is, as is the next thing we do, a collection for the poor. Later we celebrate the Eucharist. The evening liturgy has no ending: whether we stay and pray awhile or leave, we are now in the quiet and peace and glory of the Three Days.

Friday our liturgy resumes as we gather quietly and listen to scripture. We pray at length for the needs of the world. Then there is a once a year event: The Holy Cross is held up in our midst and we are offered an opportunity to come forward to do reverence with a bow, or a touch, or by kneeling and praying at the foot of the cross. Again our evening has no ending as we continue our journey through the Three Days in rest and in quiet until Saturday night when we gather in great expectation for the feast of Easter to begin.

Saturday we gather in quiet and in darkness. A new fire and our greatest candle make this night bright for us. We listen to some of the most powerful stories in the Bible, and we go to the font and bless the waters. We remember our Baptism and we pray for the healing of the world. These are the moments where our death and our life meet, when we reject evil and commit ourselves to live in God's promises. Together we go to the table and celebrate the Easter Eucharist. Easter Sunday begins and we are ready for 50 days of rejoicing.

Come to the Three Days. You are invited. You are welcome here, and you are needed here.

THE MONTH OF MARCH IN OUR CHURCH

March 7, 14, 21, & 28 – The book study, Making Sense of the Cross, that began with a *Soul Food* Sunday on February 26th continues each Wednesday evening of the Lenten month of March. The Midweek Lite Suppers and table talk discussions followed by the evening service begin at 6:00 and will conclude at 7:15. Attend! Feed your body and nourish your soul.

March 11 - Girl Scout Sunday - Savannah native, Juliette Gordon Low organized and founded the Girl Scouts of America in that southern city on March 12, 1912. The original troop of 18 young women provided the foundational beginnings of one of America's truly great organizations for young girls. It is our annual tradition for St. Michael to recognize in our place of worship the Girl Scout Troop that we sponsor in our church. The girls will serve as greeters, and we will host a special fellowship reception for them after services. They will be selling their famous cookies. Plan on sharing with these special young women our worship service, fellowship, and an opportunity to purchase their Girl Scout Cookies.



March 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins – Remember to “Spring Forward” and set your clocks one hour ahead. Guaranteed you will not want to be late for services and one of Pastor Hawkins great sermons.

LENTEN GIVING AND FUNDRAISING SHARING DURING LENT

As is our tradition at St. Michael, the Lenten season brings with it some opportunities to give to others. This year the contributions you give in your **Lenten Offering Envelope** will be used to make a donation to Loaves of Love, a ministry we help support at Harris St. United Methodist. 100% of the contributions will go directly to this ministry in Harrisburg. For new members of St. Michael and those who may not be familiar with this ministry, LOL provides food to persons living in the Harrisburg area who are infected with the HIV/AIDS virus. The cost for medication to treat this virus is quite high and often these people must make a decision between purchasing their meds or purchasing food. Loaves of Love operates from the Harris Street Methodist Church and provides food for their clients every other Wednesday morning. For anyone who is interested in more information about LOL please see any member of MTS.

Also, if you participate in the **Easter Egg Candy Sale**, please know that 10% of the proceeds will go to support Helping Hands Ministry, and another 10% will go to support Family Promise Ministry.

Supporting these ministries is one way we are a blessing to others, as we have been blessed by God around the Table on Sunday mornings.

LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION BENEFITS LOAVES OF LOVE

During this season of Lent the Ministry to Society Committee (MTS) is asking the congregation at St. Michael to help support the Loaves of Love (LOL) ministry. Last year's Lenten food collection for LOL included a special request ... PINEAPPLE! Apparently a favorite among the clients, the fruit has again been requested as a treat for their Easter Dinner. The goal this year is 125, 20 oz. cans of either crushed, sliced, or chunk pineapple to be brought to Fellowship Hall by Palm Sunday. Please consider the LOL ministry in your thoughts and your prayers.

THE MONTH OF MARCH IN OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

March 11 -BENEFIT CONCERT FOR ST. BARNABAS CENTER FOR MINISTRY

On Sunday, March 11 at 3:00 p.m. a concert will be held at St. Stephen's Cathedral to benefit the St. Barnabas Center for Ministry, a Lutheran-Episcopal outreach to the uptown section of Harrisburg, providing after school and summer programs for elementary school children. This year's program will feature the Mechanicsburg High School String Ensemble, The Steelton Elks Steppers and the Keystone Capitol Chorus. Your \$10.00 donation will help support the work of this ministry. For more information or tickets please contact Barb Lambdin at 566-2214.



March 11 -BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE HEALTH MINISTRIES OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Jody Silliker's daughter, Amanda Silliker, will present a benefit concert to support the Health Ministries of Christ Lutheran Church. The concert will be held this Sunday at 3:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 212 Cocoa Avenue in Hershey. Amanda will present an hour of solos and duets with Matthew Vickers, accompanied by Svetlana Rodionova, concert pianist. A free will offering will be accepted. For more information please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

March 17 – HUNGER BANQUET

A time to experience and learn about food-related needs in our community...and how YOU can help!

Time: **11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**
Location: **Christian Churches United**
413 S. 19th St., Harrisburg 17104
717-230-9550
ccuhbg.aol.com

The Hunger Banquet is a dramatization of the inequality that perpetuates poverty in the world. Guests are assigned roles as they enter the banquet; these roles represent different income levels around the world. What each person receives for dinner depends on the role they are playing, so while some have more that they can eat, others don't have enough to eat or any food at all.

The Hunger Banquet is an interactive opportunity for people to see and feel first hand the effects of poverty. It also offers the unique opportunity for people to take a problem, and work together to generate solutions.

To **register**, please contact Christian Churches United (contact information above) **by March 9, 2012**. Registration fee is \$10/person; \$5.00/youth

MARCH 25 - ST. MICHAEL BOWLING PARTY



Ministry To Society Committee announces a fellowship fun time on Sunday, March 25th for a bowling party to be held at ABC East located on Eisenhower Blvd. Bowling begins at 1:00 and includes three games with shoes for \$10.00 per person. Even if you don't bowl, haven't bowled in years, or bowl on a regular basis, the afternoon is sure to be fun filled and entertaining. Good news to all...there is a snack bar and lounge available so nobody has to worry about cooking or bringing food. Just bring yourself. Family and friends are invited to join in the fun. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. For questions please see Cheryl Smith or Susan Wesley.

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED IN MARCH

Martin Luther purportedly began each day reminding himself, "I have been baptized!" By water and the Spirit, each of us who are members of the Church has been called to faithfully live as the Body of Christ in the World. We rejoice with the following members of St. Michael Church who celebrate the anniversary of their Baptism during the month of March:



Floyd Eberly	March 21	Lennie Whitcomb	March 26		
Bob Gerberich	March 28	Karen Grissom	March 28	Norma Ickes	March 30

FUNDRAISING GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Willing workers, super cooks, sales promotions and generous giving combine to bring impressive monetary giving to others and our church.

CHRISTMAS PATTY SALES

This year over 7,000 patties were made and sold for a net profit of \$5,009. \$1,000 was donated to Help Ministries of Christian Churches United.

CHRISTMAS WREATH SALES

The net profit was \$410. \$82 was donated to Loaves of Love.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - A CARING EVENT

This annual event sponsored by our Ministry to Society raised \$546, surpassing all previous years. Health Ministries of Christ Lutheran Church was the beneficiary of 100% of the money. The Ministry to Society Committee wishes to thank everyone for their overwhelming support for this much needed ministry.

STEWARDSHIP STEW

Genesis 1:14 (NRSV) reads: ***And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years..."***

In the month of March we experience times and seasons close up. On Sunday, March 11, most places in the United States will begin daylight savings time. On Tuesday, March 20, spring begins. Times and seasons are very clearly the creation of a God of order and the maker of heaven and earth. The seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter bring a lot of variety to our weather and to our natural surroundings. The seasons are connected to seedtime and harvest. The days that were so short in the winter stretch out in the summer.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NRSV) says: ***"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..."*** As Christian stewards who have been given the privilege and responsibility of managing God's creation, we understand that we are stewards at all times and in all seasons. Perhaps farmers understand stewardship better than most of us but, regardless of our station in life, we are to make the most of the times and seasons and manage them in ways that are pleasing to God and provide blessings for others as well as ourselves.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NRSV) explains our stewardship in these terms: ***"As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life."***

Wouldn't it be something if everyone lived according to these words? As God's stewards we can lead the way and provide a living model of what it means to be stewards, or managers, of all of life and life's resources, including money, property, talents, time, and so much more. Our good stewardship will bring glory to God and many blessings to others as well as ourselves. Let's resolve, with the Holy Spirit's power and leading, to be good stewards of all things in all times and seasons!

Enjoy the beautiful season of spring and the longer days of sunlight.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

MARK THIS MAY 11 DATE!

On Friday May 11, 2012 you are invited to attend a concert by John Michael Talbot at St. Patrick's Cathedral on State St. in Harrisburg. The concert is a fund raising event. A portion of the cost of the tickets goes to Christian Churches United (CCU) right here in Harrisburg. As I am sure you know, CCU is a ministry St. Michael has supported for a long time.

The concert is scheduled to begin at 8:00 PM and last until 10:00 pm. Before the concert there will be a chance for fellowship at St. Michael as *hor d'oeuvres* will be offered in the social hall from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM.

If you are unfamiliar with the music of John Michael Talbot, it is worth checking out his website and reading about and listening to his music. Brother Talbot is truly a [Troubadour for the Lord](#).

St. Michael Church Council has approved the use of the Kuhnert Activity Fund (K-Fund) to underwrite the cost of this concert for our members and guests. What that means is that for our members and guests the tickets, which have a face value of \$35, are free. Anyone who would like to reimburse the K-Fund to insure that we can continue to offer free fellowship events is welcome to do so. You may donate any portion of the ticket cost, the total cost, or even more than the face value of the ticket. While a portion of the ticket cost paid by St. Michael goes to CCU, everything you offer as reimbursement of the cost goes directly back into the K-Fund, and insures many more times of fun and fellowship here at St. Michael in the future. It is a win-win proposition.

Please come out and join us for what is sure to be a spiritually uplifting evening of music and fellowship.

TREASURER'S REPORT: JANUARY 2012

January Income	\$120,702.13	YTD Income	\$120,702.13
January Expense	(\$9,364.82)	YTD Expense	(\$9,364.82)
Difference	\$111,337.31	Difference	\$111,337.31

We received income from the collection of aluminum cans in the amount of \$12.00. What a great start to the new year! This money goes into the *For This Holy House* fund. Keep those cans coming!!

We are once again very pleased to receive funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' Thrivent Choice program from Cheryl Finney, Bill Finney, and Ken Umbenhauer. Thrivent Choice lets its members help choose where Thrivent Financial gives back. Members eligible for "Choice Dollars" can help direct Thrivent Financial's charitable dollars to Lutheran nonprofit organizations and congregations. Thank you for directing these funds to St. Michael Church.

Donations in memory of Ken Harm were received from: Ken Umbenhauer, Doug Kakuk, Norma Ickes, Donald and Mary Smith, Hempt Bros. Inc., Susan Wagner, Ruth E Lewis, Peggy Sneed, Guy Kehler and Lindsay Mills, Kenneth L. Slippey.

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH—118 STATE STREET—HARRISBURG PA 17101

Sunday Schedule

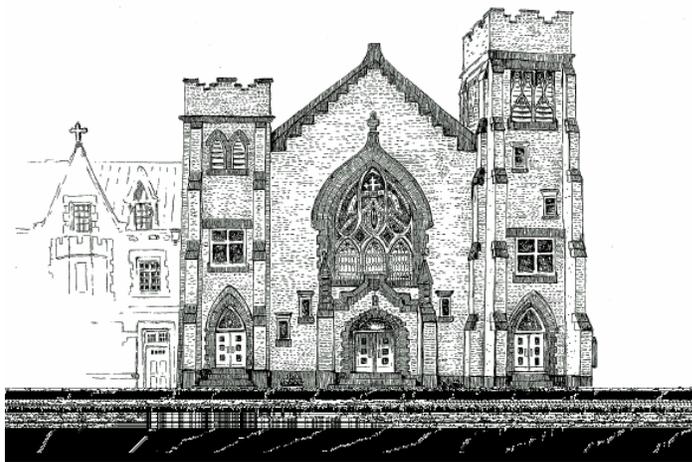
8:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament
11:15 a.m. Fellowship

The Staff

The Reverend Lawrence Hawkins, Pastor
Cecilia F. Price, Secretary
Daniel W. Deitzel III, Director of Music
Fran Zalek, Custodian

Church Office (717) 234-0092
Kitchen (717) 234-0106
E-mail churchoffice@stmikehbg.com
pastor@stmikehbg.com
Web Site www.stmikehbg.com

Office Hours Monday and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Questions or comments? Would you like to remove your name from our mailing list? Please [click here](#).

MARCH READINGS AND PRAYERS

March 4—Second Sunday in Lent

Readings: Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16 Psalm 22:23–31 Romans 4:13–25 Mark 8:31–38

Prayer of the Day: O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

March 11—Third Sunday in Lent

Readings: Exodus 20:1–17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18–25 John 2:13–22

Prayer of the Day: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

March 18—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Readings: Numbers 21:4–9 Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22 Ephesians 2:1–10 John 3:14–21

Prayer of the Day: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

March 19—Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:4, 8–16 Psalm 89:1–29 Romans 4:13–18 Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a

Prayer of the Day: O God, from the family of your servant David you raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the husband of his blessed mother. Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

March 25—Fifth Sunday in Lent

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31–34 Psalm 51:1–12 Hebrews 5:5–10 John 12:20–33

Prayer of the Day: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

March 26—Annunciation of Our Lord (transferred)

Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14 Psalm 45 Hebrews 10:4–10 Luke 1:26–38

Prayer of the Day: Pour your grace into our hearts, O God, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ, announced by an angel, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; for he lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.