

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

May 2012

Volume 35, Number 5

The Archangel

You are welcome here with us

A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

There are fifty days from Easter to Pentecost (Deuteronomy 16:9). The Church has traditionally divided this period into two parts. Forty days end with Ascension Day (Acts 1:3), and that is followed by ten days waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:8). The time from Easter to Pentecost and this month of May is filled with worship, fellowship, and outreach ministry opportunities at St. Michael Evangelical Lutheran Church.

May 9	Lutheran Day at the Capitol
May 11	John Michael Talbot Concert
May 13	Mothers Day Tea
May 17	Ascension Day Service and Fellowship Reception
May 18	Lutheran Night with the Senators Game
May 27	Pentecost Sunday

MAY 9 – LUTHERAN DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Join Lutherans around the state on this day from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. for worship, learning, advocacy and action for a more just Commonwealth. Lutheran Day at the Capitol will focus on the crisis in affordable housing in Pennsylvania and strategies for congregational and ministry leaders to address it locally and at the state level. The day begins with registration at downtown Harrisburg's Crowne Plaza and includes workshops and legislative visits. To learn more about the event and to sign on before registration closes on May 2 go to the link at:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e5mmrne83ab7816f&llr=lvflt5dab>

May 11 – JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT CONCERT

No one bridges the two musical worlds of Catholic liturgical music and Contemporary Christian music like John Michael Talbot. Christian Churches United is sponsoring this benefit concert being held at St. Patrick's Cathedral on State Street on this Friday evening starting at 8:00 p.m. Attend, and you are guaranteed a spectacular evening of Christian music. The \$35 ticket cost will be covered by the Kuhnert Fund. As per the policy of use of the Kuhnert Fund, first use of the designated funds for ticket purchase is available to St. Michael members, family, and friends. Should anyone choose to donate or cover their own expenses, the contributions will go back into the fund for future use. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to register for your attendance. A 6:30 p.m. buffet reception prior to the event is planned.

MAY 13 – MOTHERS DAY TEA

Remember our lovely 2011 Mothers Day Tea! We are going to do it again this year. On this day we will celebrate all women – those who have parented, guided, or nurtured us. Plan to join this special event following services on this Mothers Day Sunday.



MAY 17 - ASCENSION DAY SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP RECEPTION

Forty days after the feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, we celebrate His Ascension. Our 7:00 p.m. service will include the celebration of Holy Eucharist. Area Lutheran Churches are invited. A Fellowship Reception will follow. The Fellowship Reception will honor Dan Deitzel III, Director of Music at St. Michael, on his last day of service to our church. Elizabeth Benion is in charge of planning for this. Please contact her for volunteer opportunities. Plan to attend and help if you can.

MAY 18 – LUTHERAN NIGHT WITH THE SENATORS

The game starts at 7:00 p.m., and we want to have lots of St. Michael Lutherans in attendance. Tickets are \$10 each, and \$4 from the ticket price will be donated to Camp Nawakawa and Kirchenwald. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. The last Sunday to sign-up will be May 6 for ticket orders due by May 7. Don't miss out on this fun event!

MAY 27 – PENTECOST SUNDAY

On this day the color red abounds at St. Michael. It is the liturgical color, and we encourage you to wear red to Sunday Services. The church will be decorated with flames and doves, and Geraniums will adorn the nave. An order form is included in this newsletter. Plan to order your Geraniums and to wear your red!

EASTER EGG CANDY NEWS

Our candy makers stirred, melted, formed, coated, wrapped **8,127** St. Michael Easter Egg Candy Patties. Less than 100 that were made were not sold. After the "Sunday after Easter Half Price Sale" those bargain eggs left the church. Twenty percent of the Easter candy making profit will be split between Helping Hands Ministries and Family Promise.

FROM THE THANK-YOU CORNER

The Ministry To Society Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the congregation of St. Michael who so generously supported the two ministry opportunities that were available during the Lenten season.

1 - **Loaves of Love**, the ministry that serves Harrisburg's HIV/AIDS community by providing them with supplemental food, was the recipient of **165 cans of pineapple** to be distributed to their clients for Easter dinner. The goal of 125 cans was well exceeded! Once again the members of St. Michael rose to the challenge, proving that we may be a small congregation but we have a big heart. Many, many thanks!

2 - Good Friday brought a beautiful spring day for an Easter Egg Decorating Party. Thirteen children of all ages colored and decorated **27 dozen eggs** to benefit **Downtown Daily Bread**, the soup kitchen that serves the hungry and homeless at Pine Street Presbyterian Church. This was a great way for the children to not only have fun but learn about giving to those less fortunate. The egg decorating was followed by an egg hunt in River Front Park and then return to Fellowship Hall for snacks and treats. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event successful, in particular our young artists for the array of creatively decorated Easter eggs.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SING FOR JOY?

I would like to recommend a radio program to all who love the music of the church. *Sing for Joy* can be heard on Sunday mornings at 7:00 a.m. on 98.9 FM WQLV, or online anytime at www.singforjoy.org. It is produced by St. Olaf College, an ELCA school in Minnesota known for its excellent choirs. Pastor Bruce Benson hosts a half-hour of choral music based on the appointed readings for each Sunday.



Listening to "Sing for Joy" is a great way to prepare for worship at St. Michael's or to enjoy beautiful hymns and anthems anytime during the week. Its broadcast on WQLV, located in Millersburg, is made possible by the Upper Dauphin Conference of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. If the station does not come in clearly in your area, you can still listen online.

A limited number of CDs, each containing two programs, will be available following worship on May 6. I hope that they will whet your appetite for becoming a regular listener.

Barry Ridge

STEWARDSHIP STEW

“April showers bring May flowers. April, traditionally a rainy period, gives way to May, when flowers will bloom because of the water provided for them by the April showers” (According to Wiktionary—a wiki-based Open Content Dictionary). In many parts of our country this old idiom still rings true. Proper amounts of rain and sunshine combine to produce beautiful flowers. It is a kind of “action/reaction” thing.

There is an application for our lives as God’s stewards and managers of all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. Dr. Martin Luther’s explanation to the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed states it so well when it credits God with being our maker and provider. God richly provides us with **all** that we need to support this body and life. **All** is used nine times in Luther’s explanation. God has created us together with all that exists, gives us all we need and protects us against all danger and shields and preserves us from all evil.

The clincher for us as God’s stewards comes in the closing paragraph of Luther’s explanation of the First Article as he writes: ***“And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.”***

The truth of the matter is that our heavenly Father provides everything that we need in this life. His greatest gift is his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came willingly to this sinful world to offer up his life for the sins of the world—yours and mine included. That takes care of our spiritual welfare. That is the most important gift, but God also lavishes all kinds of physical gifts upon us as God’s people.

God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment (1 Timothy 6:17b), but God also wants us to use all these blessings in unselfish ways to bring glory to God’s holy name and blessings to those people around us, just like April showers bring May flowers. Our faithful management and use of God’s gifts makes life more beautiful and fragrant for us and for others.

How we use our time, abilities and financial resources makes a big difference for us and for others. How we manage our relationships, God’s creation, and the privilege of sharing the good news of Jesus also makes a big difference for us and for others.

We give thanks to God for calling us to be God’s stewards who are privileged to manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes! May God’s Holy Spirit work richly in, with, and among us so that we live each day as God’s redeemed children who are growing in the divine traits of loving and giving

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED IN MAY

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 May:



Darlene Deitz
Amy Fuller

May 5
May 12

Elaina Deitzel
Marissa Archer

May 11
May 14

TREASURER’S REPORT: MARCH 2012

March Income	\$61,683.94	YTD Income	\$192,831.70
March Expense	(\$68,960.23)	YTD Expense	(\$90,014.84)
Difference	(\$7,276.29)	Difference	\$102,816.86

MAY READINGS AND PRAYERS

May 6—Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 8:26–40 Psalm 22:25–31 1 John 4:7–21 John 15:1–8

Prayer of the Day: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

May 13—Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mothers' Day

Readings: Acts 10:44–48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1–6 John 15:9–17

Prayer of the Day: O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

May 17—Ascension of Our Lord

Readings: Acts 1:1–11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1:15–23 Luke 24:44–53

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

May 20—Seventh Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 1:15–17, 21–26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9–13 John 17:6–19

Prayer of the Day: Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

May 27—Pentecost

Readings: Acts 2:1–21 Psalm 104:24–34, 35b Romans 8:22–27 John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

Prayer of the Day: Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

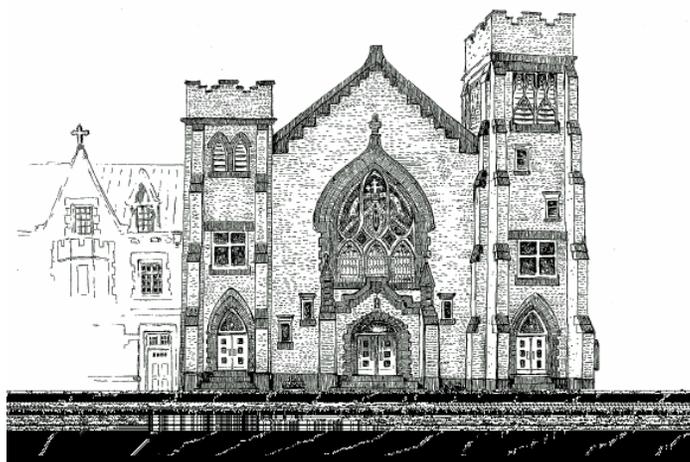
The Staff

The Reverend Lawrence Hawkins, Pastor
Cecilia F. Price, Secretary
Daniel W. Deitzel III, Director of Music
Les Van Dam, Sexton

Church Office (717) 234-0092
Kitchen (717) 234-0106
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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](#).



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

PENTECOST GERANIUMS

Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday, May 27, 2012. Red is the color of the day! Geraniums are the flower of the day! Geraniums come in 4" pots. Cost is \$4.00 each. Please fill out the order form below and mail it along with your check to St. Michael Lutheran Church, Attn: Pentecost Flowers, 118 State Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101-1024. You may also place your order with payment in the collection plate on Sunday morning. Please be sure to mark your envelope "Festival Flowers." **All orders with payment are due no later than Sunday, May 13.** In lieu of geraniums, donations may be made to *For This Holy House*.

St. Michael Evangelical Lutheran Church

Cost: \$4.00 per plant

No. of plants _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

For This Holy House

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

For This Holy House

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In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

For This Holy House

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

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Given by: _____