

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

November 2011

Volume 34, Number 11

The Archangel

You are welcome here with us

A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HAWKINS

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When we first undertook Family Promise as a ministry at St. Michael, we committed to this ministry for a period of one year from the time the program first took in guests. We said that after one year we would revisit our commitment and decide if we want to continue to be a part of this ministry.

Family Promise first hosted guests in October 2010. This means it is time for us to revisit our decision.

In an effort to review where Family Promise has come from, and to get an idea of where it is headed, we have invited Kristina Marshall, Executive Director of Family Promise- Harrisburg Capital Region, and John Bechtel, the President of the Board of Directors to come speak with us and answer any questions we may have.

That dialogue is scheduled to take place at a ***Soul Food on Sunday November 13*** after worship. Please come and hear what they have to say, ask them any question whatsoever about the ministry, share your stories of being a part of this ministry, voice your opinion about your experiences with Family Promise, and generally help us decide where we are headed.

The council will use this discussion to inform their recommendation to the congregation as to whether we continue to host this ministry or not.

pr Larry Hawkins.

CAN'T ATTEND SERVICE ON SUNDAY? YOU CAN WATCH US ON SKYPE

Can't make it to St. Michael on Sunday but still want to follow the service? There is a way to do that. You can watch us on Skype.

Skype is a free internet video conferencing service that we use at St. Michael to broadcast our Sunday morning worship service to those who cannot make it to downtown Harrisburg. We have even used it to broadcast a wedding.

If you want to take advantage of this offering, here is what you do:

Go to www.skype.com on the internet and follow the instructions there to register for the free Skype service.

After you install Skype on your computer add ***st.michael118*** to your Skype contact list. (Instructions for how to do that are part of the Skype program and easy to follow.)

In the Skype program send a message to ***st.michael118*** telling us that you want to watch the Sunday church service.

On Sunday morning you will receive a free Skype call just prior to the church service. When you answer that call you will be able to see and hear the worship service.

NOVEMBER AT A GLANCE

Fall may identify the November month, but the “declining” word does not reflect the level of activities and opportunities for faith and ministry sharing at St. Michael. The many events and services mean ample times to rise up, participate, and make our church’s activities and events part of your November month.

November 5 to 12 – Work Days

November 6 – All Saints Sunday & Daylight Savings Time Change

November 8 – General Election Soup and Bake Sale

November 13 – *Soul Food* Sunday/Family Promise Presentation

November 30 – Advent Midweek Lite Suppers and Service Begin

NOVEMBER 5 -12 PROPERTY COMMITTEE’S “NO EXCUSES WORKDAYS” JOINS WITH MINISTRY TO SOCIETY TO EXPAND OUR WORKDAY OPPORTUNITIES

Susan and John Wesley report, “As usual, the Property Committee during November will be scheduling some work time in and around the church to do some winterizing projects and address a few maintenance issues. This year however we're looking to shake things up a little!

The Ministry To Society Committee has approached the Property Committee to work with them in helping a few of our congregation members with some of their Fall outside clean-up chores. Due to a variety of limitations, the Harms and the Pates could use several hands to help mow, rake leaves, trim, edge and do other types of yard work.

We have not worked out all of the details but we do know that we have set aside Saturday, November 5 (**no** Penn State game) through Saturday, November 12 (Penn State game) as the time scheduled for helping the Harms, the Pates and ourselves at St. Michael. Look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall during the next couple of weeks for enlisting volunteers and outlining plans. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact John and Susan Wesley.”

NOVEMBER 6 – THE FESTIVAL OF ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

This Sunday we remember those persons who have lived and died in the faith. A display of all the saints has been set up in the upper narthex. Please feel welcome to share your photos on the altar of those who have blessed your own life in one way or another. On this Sunday the names of those listed in the Book of the Names of the Dead will be lifted up during Intercessory Prayers, and the congregation will remember these loved ones.

NOVEMBER 8 – ELECTION DAY SOUP & BAKE SALE

Get out your soup and baked goods recipes, select your best make sure your pots and pans are ready to go, and plan to do some soup making and baking for this annual fundraiser. Be in touch with Lindsay Mills to arrange for prior delivery or day of sale times of your contributions. Your bulk produced items can be packaged for sale after it is delivered to the church. Election Day voters look forward to our culinary creations. Don’t disappoint them!

NOVEMBER 13 – SOUL FOOD FAMILY PROMISE PRESENTATION

Pastor Hawkins’ newsletter message calls us to look afresh at our commitment to our Family Promise Ministry. Join us this day to learn about how the local program has grown in the past year and to engage in meaningful discussion about this national program that has become a part of Central Pennsylvania ministries.

NOVEMBER 27 ADVENT BEGINS AND MIDWEEK LITE SUPPERS, TABLE TALK DEVOTIONS, AND SERVICES FOLLOW BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 30

This is the time of the year that we all look forward to as a part of preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Savior. Sign-up sheets for opportunities to provide the evening meal will be posted. On page 3 of this newsletter, there is a schedule of topics to be covered each Sunday and Wednesday during Advent. As this is a working schedule, please check the church calendar, bulletin and email for any changes and to confirm times.

Advent - Christmas 2011 Calendar Worship Services

Advent 2011: Make it Simple

First week in Advent - Following Jesus

Sunday in Advent – November 27th

10 am. Worship in Word and Sacrament
5:00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday November 30th:

6:00 pm Table Talk: *Following Jesus*
Evening Prayer – O Antiphon: *Wisdom*

Second week in Advent – Facing the Truth

Sunday in Advent – December 4th

10:00 am. Worship in Word and Sacrament
5:00 pm Evening Prayer – O Antiphon: *Adonai*

Wednesday December 7th:

6:00 pm Table Talk: *Facing the Truth*
Evening Prayer – O Antiphon: *Root of Jesse*

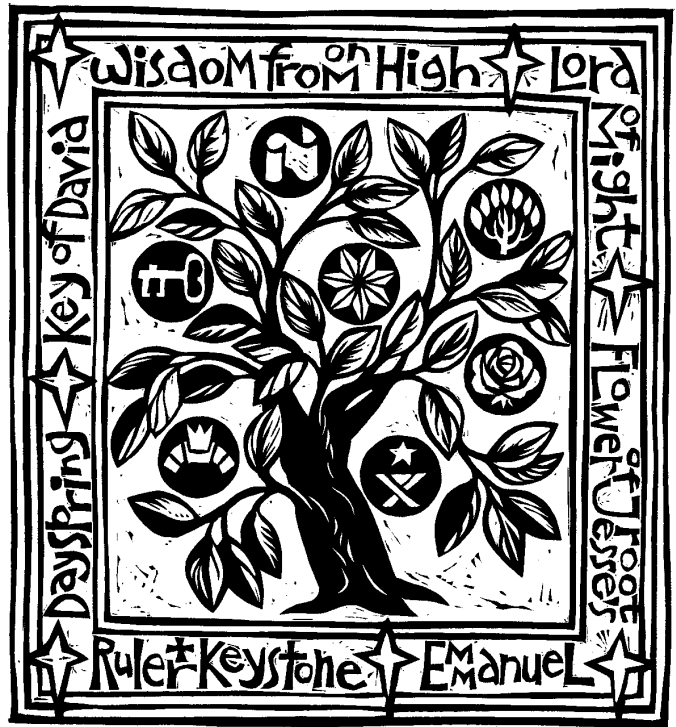
Third week in Advent – Acting Together

Sunday in Advent – December 11th

10:00 am. Worship in Word and Sacrament
5:00 pm Evening Prayer – O Antiphon: *Key of David*

Wednesday December 24th:

6:00 pm Table Talk: *Acting Together*
Evening Prayer – O Antiphon: *Dayspring*



Fourth week in Advent – Sharing Enough

Sunday in Advent – December 18th

10:00 am. Worship in Word and Sacrament
5:00 pm Evening Prayer – O Antiphon: *King of Nations*

Wednesday December 21st:

6:00 pm Table Talk: *Sharing Enough*
Evening Prayer – O Antiphon: *Emanuel*

Saturday December 24th:

7:00 pm Christmas Eve – Worship in Word and Sacrament

Sunday December 25th:

10:00 am: Nativity of Our Lord – Worship in Word and Sacrament

NOVEMBER MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES SHARE YOUR FAITH AND BLESSINGS

THANKSGIVING FOOD COLLECTION FOR LOAVES OF LOVE

With the arrival of November our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving Day. It's that special day of the year when we look forward to spending time with our loved ones and giving thanks for our many blessings. Last year the congregation of St. Michael generously supported Loaves of Love, the ministry that provides food items for Harrisburg's AIDS/HIV community.

This year LOL is asking for something you'd expect they would receive in quantity - CAKE MIXES and ICING! Unfortunately they don't and thus the reason for their special appeal.

So, MTS has set a goal of **60 cake mixes and 60 containers of ready-made icing**. As for what kind of cakes they like, use your imagination. They are most thankful for any and all gifts they receive, which makes this giving even "sweeter".

We will begin collecting items now through Sunday, November 13th. Food distribution is planned for November 16th. The members of St. Michael are always very generous and the gratitude from those at Loaves Of Love is overwhelming. Thank you for your kindness.

HELPING HANDS RETURNS

Helping Hands Ministries of Harrisburg, Inc. has returned to St. Michael Church! Helping Hands, founded by Kathleen Schulkins over 16 years ago, is "an outreach ministry in the city of Harrisburg for the homeless, the downtrodden, and other needy people. Through hot meals, we reach out to the poor with a love and care that is so often missing yet desperately wanting in their lives. No one is turned away. Anyone in need of a hot meal or encouragement is welcomed." Kathleen continues to serve hot meals to between 50 and 100 individuals five nights a week. (The meals on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays are served at First Church of God, North Fourth Street in downtown Harrisburg.)

On October 2, St. Michael Church again opened its doors on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons to provide a clean, dry, and warm environment for the guests of Helping Hands to enjoy their evening meal. What a great way to do what Jesus commands us to do! *for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.* 'Then the righteous will answer him, *'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'* And the king will answer them, ***Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.*** (Matthew 25:35-40, New Revised Standard Version)

How can you help? Donations of time, food, money, and clothing are needed. Volunteers at St. Michael arrive at 4:00 p.m., open the church, turn on the lights, and plug in the coffee maker. You may spend your time talking with the guests, helping the volunteer servers, being a "runner" between the serving line and kitchen, or just sitting and reading, knitting, working on a puzzle, or catching up with your tweets, texts, and Facebook. How much you do is up to you. The volunteer servers clean up. You may certainly help, but what is needed is simply to turn off the lights and lock the church doors by 6:00 p.m. Two hours. Two days a week. Not a bad way to share the love of Jesus. Donations of food and money are appreciated. Helping Hands receives food donations from a number of local grocers and restaurants and uses that food to prepare meals. However, soups, large tray casseroles, stews and other prepared meals are gratefully accepted. Helping Hands Ministries of Harrisburg, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Monetary contributions are tax-deductible.

Donations of clothing items in the winter months are also welcomed. When the seasons change, so do the types of clothing needed by homeless people. On the list from October through March are long underwear, hooded sweatshirts, sweatpants, socks, gloves, hats, coats, and blankets. *In reply he [John the Baptist] said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."* (Luke 3:11 NRSV)

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Two members are asked to be present each Sunday and Wednesday. Mike Ennis and Lindsay Mills have taken the lead on this ministry for our congregation. Speak to them if you have any questions, would like more information, or want to volunteer. Check out Helping Hands website as well – helping-handsministries.org. This ministry is one way St. Michael Church can express the brand of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – God's Work. Our Hands. Our hands; Helping Hands; lend a hand; give a hand. *if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.* (Isaiah 58:10-11 NRSV)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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NOVEMBER 5, 12, & 19 - SEMINARY ON SATURDAYS at GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

Kevin Hepler reports, "In the recent congregational survey on Christian Education, some members expressed interest in attending programs outside of our church. Here's one great opportunity to consider: Every fall, a Seminary on Saturdays program allows lay people to sample the internationally recognized scholarly energy offered by the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (LTSG). This program takes place the first three Saturdays of November in one of the LTSG lecture halls. Each Saturday session lasts from 9 AM to noon and includes two topics with a mid session break between. Faculty presenters are chosen for their teaching skills and their knowledge of the subject matter. Anyone can attend one, two or all three morning sessions, but registration in advance is requested. This year's schedule will be:

Saturday, November 5, 2011

"The Last Act of Acts: Paul on Trial"

"Seeing in Imagination': Ignatius of Loyola's Approach to God through the Five Senses"

Saturday, November 12, 2011

"Strangers, Friends, and Kinfolk: An Initial Orientation to the Cultures, Habits and Worldviews of Denominations with which the ELCA is in Full Communion"

"Lutherans and Vocation: It's the Journey Not the Destination"

Saturday, November 19, 2011

"Cluny and Taize: Pilgrimage Hot Spots from Medieval Times to Now"

Several St. Michael members are expected to attend. If you are interested in sharing a ride, contact Kevin Hepler (kevin@hepler.net) or Pastor Hawkins. Sessions cost \$20 a piece or \$50 for all 3. More information is available online at <http://www.ltsg.edu/Lifelong-Learners/Seminary-on-Saturdays>. St. Michael members who attended in the past have enjoyed the opportunity so much, that this year church council has decided to approve in advance the use of funds from the Dot Kuhnert Social Fund to cover the costs for any members who wish to attend."

From the Thank You Corner of the Newsletter

December 3 – Attend a Performance of “The Gospel According to Scrooge”

In appreciation of the generous donations of assistance and materials that so many of you have provided throughout these past years to the projects of the Ministry to Society Committee, the group has arranged to use monies from the Kuhnert Fund to purchase 50 tickets for the Saturday December 3rd matinee performance of “The Gospel According to Scrooge” at the Christian Life Assembly.

St. Michael members, family, and friends will have first offering of these 50 tickets. After the close of that offering on November 20th, if there are available tickets remaining, they will then be offered for others. This is a 2-1/2 - 3 hour professional production at the church located at 2635 Lisburn Road in Camp Hill. The doors will open at 1:00 and the performance begins at 2:00. Refreshments will be available in the lobby and balcony areas during intermission.

Sign-up sheets will be located in the Fellowship Hall. Again the deadline is Nov. 20. Include this in your holiday plans. For more information contact Cheryl Smith at 657-3554 or 773-5643.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF 2011 INGATHERING APPEAL

As the LWR 2011 Ingathering Appeal comes to an end, the members of the MTS committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who supported this mission of love either by their monetary gifts or by purchasing the items needed to complete the kits.

We all know how important education is for any community especially those communities where people live in poverty. The School Kits contain essential supplies to help children continue to learn in spite of the hardships they face. That learning leads to a better life for them and their families. The Health Kits are greatly needed when natural disaster or political conflict arises and people have to flee their homes for the safety of refugee camps. This kit that seems so simple to us, allows a person to wash away the dirt and at the same time know that someone who they will never know has compassion and cares for them. Thank you again to all who participated in making this another very successful drive.

BASKETS AND BAGELS

In the words of Baskets and Bagels organizer, Chris Persson, " **Who, Hoo!**" This October 9th event which has now become an annual fall fundraiser netted **\$1,016** this year. Impressive!! If you bid on a basket and won, it was a great basket of goodies you took home. If yours was not the winning bid, you had solace in delicious bagels and other goodies to make you feel better. Better luck/bidding next time/next year!!

THE PAINTING PROJECT IS COMPLETED!

Our "painting contractor/artiste extraordinaire" Leonardo Landa has completed his work. Take time to look up, sideways, and down and see all of the work he has done for St. Michael. We are thankful for the job he has done and the bonus of his joining us for worship and fellowship.

STEWARDSHIP STEW

The Day of Thanksgiving—A technical change or an adaptive change?

In the autumn of 1621 the new settlers to our country gathered with some native Indians for a three-day thanksgiving feast to celebrate a good harvest. This is probably why pilgrims and turkeys have become so attached to Thanksgiving Day. This event in 1621 was not a holiday, but simply a gathering to express thankfulness and share in the Lord's bounty. The Day of Thanksgiving as a holiday dates back to 1863 when President Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving Day as a national holiday on the last Thursday of November as an encouragement for Americans to give thanks to God for God's provision. Since then Thanksgiving Day has remained a national holiday.

As Christians we rejoice that our nation observes a national day of thanksgiving. However, Christian stewards may very well question whether our current Thanksgiving Day celebration is a technical change or an adaptive change. What's the difference between a technical and an adaptive change? Actually, there is a big difference! If the celebration of Thanksgiving Day is simply one day to pause from the busyness of life and work and give thanks in whatever way people wish to express thanks, and then get back to the regular swing of things, it becomes little more than a momentary technical change. We do it for one day and then get on with life as usual. If, however, the Day of Thanksgiving provides us with the opportunity to express our thankfulness to God for all God's blessings, and then continue to express our thankfulness on an ongoing basis it is more of an adaptive change. Simply put, a technical change is a once a year event, but an adaptive change is a change in behavior that continues throughout the year.

Jesus taught us to pray "**give us today our daily bread.**" Dr. Martin Luther in his explanation of this petition in his *Small Catechism* indicated that *daily bread* means "**Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies...**" and that we as God's people should "**receive it with thanksgiving.**"

It is a very good practice to be regular and consistent in our prayers at mealtimes. Truly our Lord is good and his mercy endures forever. Saying prayers like this helps us remember that thanksgiving is a daily activity of God's people. Praying daily also helps us practice thanksgiving in an adaptive way. This encourages us to remember that thanksgiving is a daily way of life, not just a once a year holiday.

Christian stewards are people with grateful hearts and giving hands. All good gifts come from God and God intends for us to receive them with thankfulness and use them in ways that honor God and bless others. God's good gifts include healthy relationships, special talents, time, the privilege of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, financial resources and so much more. Jesus frees us from the selfish use of all these gifts and the Holy Spirit helps us live like the children of God who freely, joyfully and daily use all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

Happy Day of Thanksgiving! May your celebration be another reminder that thanksgiving is meant to be a daily response for all that God so richly provides.

COUNCIL ACTIONS—OCTOBER 11TH MEETING

- Added The Interfaith Alliance of PA (TIA-PA) to the Appendix of the Building Use Policy as an organization that uses our facilities as an extension of our mission. *Note: They will meet in our building monthly on the third Monday from 7-9 pm (less than 10 people). Plus a quarterly combined meeting with the Religion and Society Center on the first Monday of the month from 7-9pm (less than 20 people).*
- Allowed to be used from the Kuhnert Fund the \$20 registration fee to fund attendees participating in the November series of “Seminary on Saturday” held at Gettysburg College.
- Approved reimbursement to Cheryl Smith from the Kuhnert Fund for 50 tickets purchased to be used by St. Michael’s members and associated attendees to the December 3rd matinee performance of “The Gospel According to Scrooge” held at Christian Life Assembly.
- Set the date of the 2012 Annual Congregational Meeting for December 9, the second Sunday of December *Note: The church constitution designates the annual congregational meeting be held during the month of December. Traditionally we have held it on the second Sunday in December. This early action was taken as part of yearly planning.*

TREASURER’S REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2011

September Income	\$12,465.24	YTD Income	\$100,497.44
September Expense	(\$22,497.22)	YTD Expense	(\$126,934.81)
Difference	(\$10,031.98)	Difference	(\$26,437.37)

We are thankful for the gifts received to the Glory of God and in memory of Cay Vogelsong from:

Lynn and Peter Hendel	Frank Karl	Phyllis and Douglas McCullough
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Pomieter	Patricia and David Schned	Faye and Dave Stauffer
Anna and Grant Wilson		

We are once again very pleased to receive funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans’ Thrivent Choice program from Cheryl Finney. 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.

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED IN NOVEMBER

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 November:

Elizabeth Benion	November 1	Carol Mesh	November 5	Dylan Spiegel	November 23
Chris Mladenoff	November 1	Lisa Spiegel	November 8	Doug Kakuk	November 24
Gregory Darr	November 3	Edward Smith	November 9	Jordan Labrana	November 30



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NOVEMBER READINGS AND PRAYERS

November 6—All Saints Sunday

Readings: Revelation 7:9–17 Psalm 34:1–10, 22 1 John 3:1–3 Matthew 5:1–12

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

November 13—Lectionary 33/Pentecost 28

Readings: Zephaniah 1:7, 12–18 Psalm 90:1–8[9–11] 12 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 Matthew 25:14–30

Prayer of the Day: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

November 20—Christ the King

Readings: Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 Psalm 95:1–7a Ephesians 1:15–23 Matthew 25:31–46

Prayer of the Day: O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

November 27—First Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 64:1–9 Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 Mark 13:24–37

Prayer of the Day: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father 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
Fran Zalek, Custodian

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



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