

Mission Possible



November 2011 edition

Connect Theological Academy

This January the Project Connect Taskforce of our synod will **welcome young adults to speak honestly and openly about what it means to be Christian today.**

Why? Because young adults (post-High School to 30 years old) are at a critical age in discerning where God is calling them in the world. Why else? Because the church needs to engage young adults in these challenging conversations and the church desperately needs to hear their answers.

How does your congregation involve young adults? Maybe you already have an established way to gather these folks around a table and have meaningful conversation; maybe you already have a routine of incorporating them into your congregation's worship life. Or maybe you are like most of our synod's 248 congregations that haven't quite figured it out yet. So maybe this is the first step: invite them to the **Connect Theological Academy.** It's nearly three days of worship and intellectual exploration of Christianity in the 21st Century; it's time apart and time in community; it's asking and answering deep questions, like: "How do we engage our culture in light of our faith?" "How do we tackle moral questions and face moral dilemmas together?"

The Connect Theological Academy is funded by a generous grant from Project Connect to keep these conversations with young adults alive in our synod. If we are serious about continuing ministries like this one, we will show it with our own generous giving, our willingness to welcome young adults into our congregation's life, and our listening ear.

Your giving makes it possible for the Lower Susquehanna Synod to continue to support ministries for young adults.

Mission Possible is a communication of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is an initiative of the Mission Interpretation and Communication focus found in the 2010 Lower Susquehanna Synod Stewardship Education and Mission Support Strategy.

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
118 State Street ♦ Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 13, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE	<i>My Faith Looks Up To Thee</i>	arr. Robert Hughes
GATHERING HYMN	<i>Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ</i>	ELW 674
PSALM	<i>O God, Our Help in Ages Past</i>	ELW 632
HYMN OF THE DAY	<i>Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us</i>	ELW 707
CHOIR ANTHEM	<i>I Will Love the Lord</i>	Michael Bedford
OFFERTORY	<i>For the Fruit of All Creation</i>	ELW 679, vs. 1
COMMUNION HYMN	<i>O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts</i>	ELW 658
SENDING HYMN	<i>O Zion, Haste</i>	ELW 668
POSTLUDE	<i>The Spirit that Dwells Within</i>	David Paxton

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister	The Reverend Larry Hawkins
Director of Music	Daniel W. Deitzel III
Assisting Minister	Les Van Dam
Eucharistic Minister	Will Hawkins
Acolyte	Eric Smith
Lector	Lloyd Kramer
Greeters	Nancy Eberly and Louise Palmer
Ushers	Greg Darr and Gary Lehman
Altar Guild	Floyd and Nancy Eberly
Offering Counters	Maria Archer, Ed and Cheryl Smith

PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

You, O God, are our dwelling place from generation to generation, our shield from anguish and distress. You arm us as children of light with the hope of salvation, and you protect us by your love. Give us grace to build up and encourage one another we seek wisdom and abundant life in the strength of your Word and the assurance of your Spirit. Amen.

O God of all people, throughout history you have given us saints as examples of how we should live. I give you thanks for the lives of all the saints of history and for those who walk among us today. I pray especially in gratitude for [name or names] whose life touched mine and through it showed me your grace. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Persons with impairments - St. Michael offers to those with any type of hearing difficulty a small, remote personal speaker which provides the user an amplified, high quality audio of the entire service. We invite our guests who may have the need for such an accommodation to ask an usher for a personal speaker. (They are available upon entering the Nave.) We welcome any comments concerning St. Michael's efforts to accommodate persons with impairments or disabilities.

As part of our stewardship of the earth God has created for us, we are using our worship bulletins for a complete season of the church year. Please remove the worship service section and place it in the basket provided in the narthex. You may take this cover and the readings insert. Thank you for helping to conserve our natural resources and allowing the cost of paper to be redirected to other areas of ministry.

An enlarged copy of the bulletin is available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.

where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

PHONE AND INTERNET INFORMATION

Church phones:	Office: 234-0092	Kitchen: 234-0106
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E-mail addresses:	Church Office	churchoffice@stmikehbg.com
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 25:14-30

¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

<i>Soul Food</i> —Family Promise	Today at 11:30 a.m.
Helping Hands	Today at 4:00 p.m.
Candy Making	Monday at 8:30 a.m.
Congregation Council Meeting	Monday at 6:00 p.m.
Candy Making	Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.
Deadline for <i>Archangel</i> news	Tuesday
Candy Making	Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.
Helping Hands	Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Holiday Parade/Open House	Saturday from Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Helping Hands	Next Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

Readings for *Christ the King, November 20*, are:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

Downtown Daily Bread is in need of pies for their Thanksgiving Day dinner. They have requested "10" already baked pumpkin pies. If you would like to help feed those who are less fortunate in our community by providing a pumpkin pie, please bring your donation to the church refrigerator no later than Tuesday, November 22 for delivery on Wednesday morning. As always if you would prefer to make a monetary contribution, please see any member of MTS, Shirley Kramer, Ron Maynard, Wayne Noss, Cheryl Smith, Susan Wesley.

The annual Harrisburg Holiday Parade is back on! And so is our Open House!! Join us next Saturday, November 19, as we welcome parade-goers to our neighborhood during our annual event. Volunteers are needed on the day of the parade to serve free food, hand out flyers, and sell our delicious Christmas Patties. Please see Elizabeth Benion or Lindsay Mills to volunteer your time, talent, and treasure. Yes, monetary donations to cover the cost of the food are greatly appreciated!

In appreciation for the generosity of St. Michael members, family and friends, the Ministry to Society Committee 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. If you would like to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Deadline is November 20. For more information, see the article in the November issue of *The Archangel*, or contact Cheryl Smith at 657-3554 or 773-5643.

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in'... 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matt 25:35, 40 New International Version) One way to fulfill what Jesus calls us to do, is simply having our doors open for Helping Hands Ministries every Sunday and Wednesday afternoon from 4:00 – 6:00 as a hot meal is served to “the homeless, the downtrodden, and other needy people.” Two members are asked to be present. To volunteer, place your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please speak with Mike Ennis or Lindsay Mills if you have any questions or concerns regarding this congregational ministry. Thank you.

Committee Chairs—2011 Annual Reports are due in the office no later than Sunday, November 27. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11.

Order forms for Christmas Patties, Christmas wreaths to decorate your home; and poinsettias and wreaths to decorate the church are available on the tables in the narthex, and, on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Place your orders before the deadlines.

2012 Sponsorship Charts for Altar Flowers, Bulletins, and Fellowship Hour are on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Sign up now to get the dates you want.

Altar flowers are sponsored to the Glory of God by Susan Will.

Bulletins are sponsored to the Glory of God and in memory of Bob Kuhnert by the Smith family.

Fellowship hour is sponsored to the Glory of God and in honor of John's birthday by Susan Wesley.

If you have anyone you would like to have remembered in prayer, please tell Pastor Hawkins, or contact the church office at 234-0092 or churchoffice@stmikehbg.com. Names will be listed in the bulletin for four weeks unless requested otherwise.

We remember the following members and friends of St. Michael in prayer this week: Pat Harm and Diana Pate.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 13, 2011

FIRST READING

ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12–18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.\