

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

PHONE AND INTERNET INFORMATION

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 December 11, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE *Cantabile* L.V. Beethoven
 GATHERING HYMN
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came ELW 265
 HYMN OF THE DAY
There's a Voice in the Wilderness ELW 255
 CHOIR ANTHEM *Advent Canticle* Mark Hayes
 COMMUNION HYMN
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry ELW 249
 POST-COMMUNION HYMN
Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness ELW 488 vs. 3
 SENDING HYMN *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* ELW 311
 POSTLUDE *The Advent of Our God* Edward Broughton

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister The Reverend Larry Hawkins
 Director of Music Daniel W. Deitzel III
 Assisting Minister Elizabeth Parker
 Cantor Wayne Noss
 Eucharistic Minister Will Hawkins
 Acolyte Eric Smith
 Lector Maria Archer
 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



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

PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

Merciful God of peace, your word spoken by the prophets, restores your people's life and hope. Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, that we may hold fast to your great goodness and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world. Amen.

Dearest heavenly father, through your Holy Spirit you have sanctified us and enabled us to come before you in the name of your Son, Jesus the Christ. In confidence we ask that our celebrations this season, sacred and secular, may draw us to a deeper appreciation of your infinite love. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

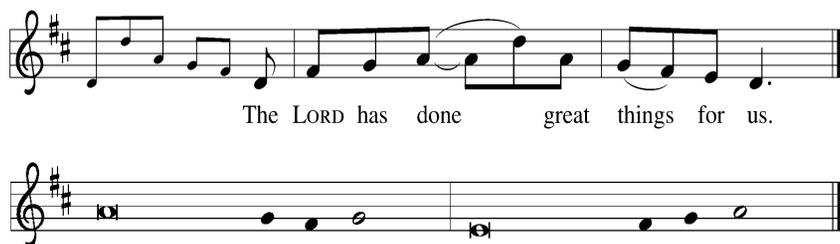
Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you,* who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matt. 11:10)

GOSPEL

JOHN 13:34-35

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The refrain is sung by the choir, repeated by the assembly. The psalm is sung antiphonally by the cantor and assembly, beginning with the cantor. The assembly sings the refrain where marked.



¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations,

"The LORD has done great | things for them."

³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb. R**

⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. R**

SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Deadline to order Christmas Candy	Today
Annual Congregational Meeting	Today at 11:15 a.m.
Helping Hands	Today at 4:00 p.m.
Advent Evening Prayer	Today at 5:00 p.m.
Candy Making	Monday at 1:00 p.m.
Congregation Council	Monday at 6:00 p.m.
Candy Making	Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.
Candy Making	Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.
Helping Hands	Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.
Midweek Dinner and Evening Prayer	Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
Deadline for <i>Archangel</i> News for January	Thursday
Helping Hands	Next Sunday at 4:00 p.m.
Advent Evening Prayer	Next Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

Readings for the *Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18*, are:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

'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.

The Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon takes place this morning beginning at 11:15 a.m. Annual Reports are available in the lower narthex. Plan to stay for this important meeting.

Today is the last day to place orders for Christmas Patties. Order forms are available on the tables in the narthex, and on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Don't miss out on these delicious candies.

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.

The Advent Tree is sponsored in memory of mother, Beverly McIntosh by Tim and Tina Morgan. Copies of *The Legend of the Advent Tree* are available on the tables in the narthex.

A contribution has been made to the altar flower fund to the Glory of God by Susan Wagner.

Bulletins are sponsored to the Glory of God by Susan Will.

Fellowship hour is sponsored to the Glory of God and in honor of Terrell's birthday by the Archer family; and by the Fellowship Committee.

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 11, 2011

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion —
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.\