

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

**PHONE AND INTERNET INFORMATION**

Church phones: Office: 234-0092 Kitchen: 234-0106  
 Pastor Hawkins: Home: 939-8981 Cell: 579-8803  
 E-mail addresses: Church Office churchoffice@stmikehbg.com  
 Pastor Hawkins pastor@stmikehbg.com  
 larryhawkins@verizon.net  
 Web site: www.stmikehbg.com

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
 December 18, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE *To Wonder and Worship*  
 James Southbridge

GATHERING HYMN  
*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ELW 257

HYMN OF THE DAY  
*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ELW 254

CHOIR ANTHEM

COMMUNION HYMN  
*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* ELW 251

POST-COMMUNION HYMN  
*Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* ELW 488 vs. 4

SENDING HYMN  
*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* ELW 311

POSTLUDE *Lift Up Your Heads* Franklin Ritter

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Presiding Minister The Reverend Larry Hawkins  
 Director of Music Daniel W. Deitzel III  
 Assisting Minister Elizabeth Benion  
 Cantor Sue Will  
 Eucharistic Minister Terrell Archer  
 Acolyte Marissa Archer  
 Lector Dan Tosheff  
 Greeters Maria and Marissa Archer  
 Ushers Floyd and Nancy Eberly  
 Altar Guild Guy Kehler and Lindsay Mills  
 Offering Counters Mike Ennis and Elizabeth Parker



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

## PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

Ever-faithful God, through prophets and angels you promised to raise up a holy child who would establish a household of peace and justice. Open our hearts to receive your Son, that we may open our doors to welcome all people as sisters and brothers, and establish your household in our time. Amen.

Merciful God, we come in the midst of the darkness and coldness of life confident that you know our joys and our needs. Hear our prayer for all who do not hear the news of your promises, your fulfillment and your love. Hear our prayer for those who know this will be the last Christmas on this earth for them or for a loved one. May the songs of the angels and your promises sustain them. Amen.

## WORSHIP NOTES

God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

**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

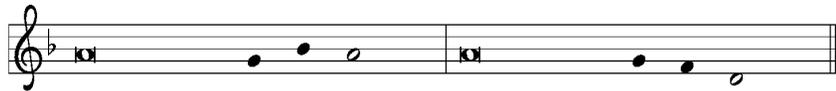
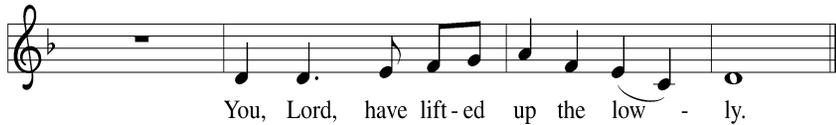
Alleluia. Here I am, the servant<sup>l</sup> of the Lord;\*  
let it be with me according<sup>l</sup> to your word. Alleluia. (Luke 1:38)

## GOSPEL

LUKE 1:26–38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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.



<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**  
**From this day all generations will | call me blessed;**  
<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me,  
and holy | is your name.  
<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on | those who fear you,**  
**from generation to | generation. R**  
<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength | with your arm;  
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,  
<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty | from their thrones**  
**and lifting | up the lowly.**  
<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry | with good things,  
and sent the rich | away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,**  
**to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**  
<sup>55</sup>the promise made | to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. **R**

## SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 4:11B-13

<sup>11b</sup>For I have learned to be content with whatever I have. <sup>12</sup>I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Helping Hands  
Advent Evening Prayer  
Helping Hands  
Midweek Dinner and Evening Prayer  
Choir Rehearsal  
Christmas Decorating  
Christmas Eve Recital  
Helping Hands

Today at 4:00 p.m.  
Today at 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday at 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday at 6:30 p.m.  
Next Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

Readings for the *Nativity of Our Lord/Christmas Eve*, are:

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14[15-20]

Readings for the *Nativity of Our Lord/Christmas Day*, are:

Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

*Christmas Eve Schedule*

9:00 a.m.—Decorating the Church  
6:30 p.m.—Christmas Eve Recital  
7:00 p.m.—Festival Worship Service  
After Service—Holiday Reception

*Christmas Day Schedule*

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship Service  
After Service—Fellowship Meal

An evening of Christmas Caroling is planned for Wednesday, December 28 at 6:30 p.m. Join in the fun as we spread Christmas cheer to members at home. Meet at St. Michael's at 6:30. After caroling, we will continue to celebrate the season back at St. Michael's with cookies and hot chocolate!

Offering envelopes for 2012 are ready for you to pick up. Please take yours and any for your family.

Updated member directories are available in the lower narthex.

*'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.

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 and in memory of Harry Mills by Guy Kehler and Lindsay Mills.

Bulletins are sponsored to the Glory of God and in memory of Harry Mills by Guy Kehler and Lindsay Mills.

Fellowship hour is sponsored to the Glory of God by Keni Atticks and Jackie Smith.

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: Monserrate Garcia (Maria Archer's Mom), Pat Harm and Diana Pate.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 18, 2011

### FIRST READING

2 SAMUEL 7:1–11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.