

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



ST. MICHAEL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

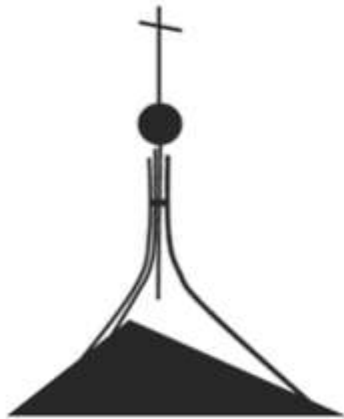
God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5



ST. MICHAEL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Reverend Christopher Bruesehoff, Pastor
Mark Dishong, Director of Music
Danielle Korte, Office Administrator and
Communications Specialist
Paul Makin, Custodian

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God's love in Jesus Christ.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Meeting Agenda	Page 5
Opening Liturgy	Page 6
2023 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes	Pages 7-8
Presidents Report	Page 9
Pastor's Report	Page 10-11
Director of Music Report	Page 12
Treasurer's Report	Page 12-13
Financial Secretary's Report	Page 14
Nominating Committee Report	Page 15
Council Nominee Biographies	Pages 16
Asset/Fund Balances	Page 17
2024 Proposed Rental Fund Income & Expense Plan	Page 18
2024 Proposed General Operating Fund Income & Expense Plan	Page 19-22
2024 Spending Plan Summary	Pages 23
2024 Ministry Narrative Spending Plan	Pages 24-25
Resolutions for Consideration	Page 26
Financial Review Task Group Report	Page 26
2023 Benevolence Summary	Page 27
Memorial Fund Narrative Report	Page 28
Christian Education Team and Martha's Circle	Page 29
Communication Team Report	Page 30
Membership Committee Report	Page 31
Property & Garden Committee Report	Page 32-33
Social Justice and Advocacy and Capital Campaign Teams	Page 34-35
Parish Fellowship and Youth and Family Teams	Page 36
2024 Worship Calendar	Page 37-38
Closing Prayer	Page 39

AGENDA FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

- Opening Devotion
- Submission of Minutes
 - January 29, 2023 Annual Congregation Meeting
- President's Report
- Pastor's Report
- Financial Review Task Group Reports
- Treasurer's 2023 Report
- Nominating Committee Report for Congregational Council
- Call for Nominations from the Floor
- Ballot for 2024 Congregational Council
- Resolution for Consideration
 - Resolution 1: A Resolution to Complete the 2022-2023 Financial Reviews
 - Resolution 2: A Resolution to Distribute the 2023 Memorial Fund Income
 - Resolution 3: A Resolution to Adopt the 2024 General Fund and Rental Fund Spending Plans
- Election Report, if Required
- Acceptance of Committee and Team Reports
- Recognition and Thanks
- Closing Prayer

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live,
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give,
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be,
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABYLONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

Text and music are in the public domain. May be reproduced without restriction.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
 ST MICHAELS LUTHERAN CHURCH
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

11:24am

Call to Order

Council President: 61 Voting members were in attendance
 52 in person; 0 via zoom

Pastor: **Opening Devotions and Litany**

President: **Submissions of Minutes**

The minutes from the January 30, 2022, Annual Congregation Meeting were previously reviewed and approved by the Congregation Council. Mark Bensel moved to approve. Holly Zaradnick Unanimous approval.

Reports: The following reports are contained in the 2022 Annual report and were Submitted to the record:

- Presidents Report - Kim Billet. Kim pointed out that council will set RIC as one of their goals for 2023
- Pastors Report - Pastor Chris Bruesehoff
- Financial Review Task Force 2018/2019- Anne Cassidy.
- Financial Secretary Report - Tom Gano
- Treasurer Report - Anne Cassidy
- Nominating Committee Report - Kim Billet

President

Nominating Committee Report for Congregation Council Membership
 The Nominating Committee Report was reviewed with the congregation. There was a call for additional nominations from the floor - there were none. New and continuing Congregation Council members were approved.

Motion to cast a single ballot to elect the slate brought forward by Pastor Chris, second by Holly. Unanimous vote to approve (include 8/8 on line).

Treasurer:

2018, 2019 Financial Reviews

An overview was given on the reasons the 2020 & 2021 reviews have not yet been completed.

RESOLUTION 1: A RESOLUTION TO COMPLETE 2020, 2021, AND 2022 FINANCIAL REVIEWS

Be it resolved that the Congregation of St. Michael's Lutheran Church gathered for its Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 29, 2023, approves of the Financial Review Committee submitting their report at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in 2024 presenting the results of their review of the financial accounts of

the Church for fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Second by Kelly Daly,

Discussions and Questions were held. No changes or updates required to the resolution. Vote Called: adopted by unanimous vote.

Treasurer

2022 Annual Treasurers Report Reviewed

Discussion was held regarding the wording of report. Explanation was provided to change the word to "mostly" contributed

2023 Income and Expense Plans

An overview of the 2023 plan was provided in this meeting and at the previously held Budget Forum on January 22, 2023.

RESOLUTION 2: A RESOLUTION TO DISTRIBUTE THE 2020 MEMORIAL FUND INCOME

Be it resolved that St. Michael's Congregation Council recommends to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023, that the 2022 Memorial Fund Income of \$9,825 be used to support the 2022 General Operating Fund. -REPLACE WITH WORDING

Ruth moved, Kay second.

Called for questions and discussion - Discussion included a request to provide an overview of the purpose of the fund for newer congregation members. No changes to resolution as brought forward.

Vote Called: adopted by consensus vote to include 8/8 via zoom, 0 nay,, .1 abstention

RESOLUTION 3: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2023 GENERAL OPERATING FUND AND RENTAL FUND INCOME AND EXPENSE PLANS

Be it resolved that St. Michael's Congregation gathered for the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2023, approves the 2023 General Operating Fund and Rental Fund Income and Expense Plans as recommended by the Congregation Council.

Janet, motion. Dennis second.

Called for questions and discussion - discussion was held with questions brought forward. No changes were made to the resolution as brought forward. Vote Called: adopted by unanimous vote.

Constitution, get votes from Kim. Motion to waive 30 day notice

Motion to approve changes. Called for questions and discussion - No issues brought forward. Vote Called: adopted by consensus.

President

Recognition and Thanks Appreciation was given to council members, both expiring and continuing. Special recognition to Lisa Gess, for her assistance in transitioning Kim to role of President and for her continuous work on behalf of the congregation.

Pastor

Closing Prayers

President

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

When I started writing this report I wondered, "When exactly was I elected SMLC council president?" I was somewhat shocked to learn it was February 2023. I didn't think it had been that long. I take that as further proof that time flies when you are having fun!

Serving as council president has been an honor and a flattering role that I aspire to live up to. I am extremely grateful to my predecessors including treasurer Kim Billet and Lisa Gess for their invaluable counsel. I am indebted to those who serve on council with me: Anne Cassidy, Ray Kratz, Martha Burke, Vicki Clemson, Kay McConnell, Ruth Morgenroth, Karen Roorda, and John Winkelman.

As someone who attends the 8:15 a.m. service, I don't know what church means to everyone. I feel St. Michael's is uniquely blessed to have the talents of Director of Music Mark Dishong (and, of course, his family!). Every week I wonder how the lectionary will speak to me. I consider Pastor Chris' lessons invaluable, and I need communion. Outside of that, I try to be useful to property guru Larry Ferguson, serve as a teller, review the asset allocation of the Memorial Fund, and, last but not least, show up whenever there is food!

I am also grateful for the facets of St. Michael's I am less involved with: Martha Circle, Christian Education, Youth Group, Altar Guild, Membership, Music and Social Outreach, the Property and Garden teams and Finance committee. I am grateful too to our Office Administrator and Communications Specialist Danielle Korte and our meticulous custodian Paul Makin.

I would especially like to thank Financial Secretary Tom Gano and Assistant Financial Secretary Jill Zak. They are stepping away from their roles. Their contributions have been great. They are irreplaceable.

We are in the midst of an ambitious capital campaign. On Sunday, October 22, 2023 the congregation agreed to raise \$120,000 in order to fix our roof and to air condition the Social Hall. As of this writing, we have raised \$61,755. I hope our generous congregation can continue to help us meet this worthy goal.

Serving as council president is an ongoing education. I have learned we have a lot to do! I would implore everyone to think about how they can help. St. Michael's has a mighty legacy. I would encourage everyone to get involved so that St. Michael's can continue to be a beacon of caring, kindness, and compassion, and we can continue to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ for many years to come.

In Christ,
Geoffrey Castle

PASTOR'S REPORT

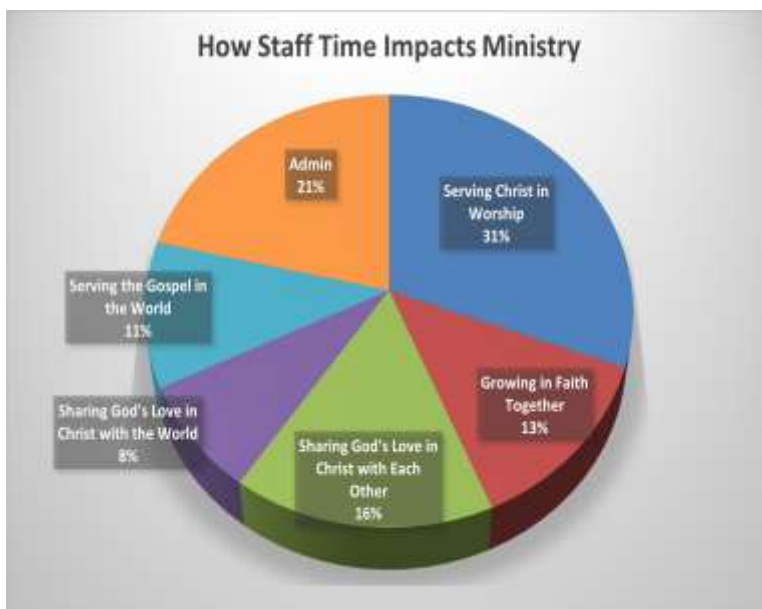
In reflecting on the vibrant tapestry of our faith community over the past year, the ministry at St. Michael's has flourished amidst moments of joy and hope. With ongoing military conflicts in the world, political uncertainties, and difficult economics, we found ourselves not just weathering challenges but growing exponentially as a community.

In 2023, the collective spirit of St. Michael's soared with the increasing number of individuals joining our worship services. The pews now include new faces, and the harmonious sounds of the choir resonate with fresh voices. Sunday School is celebrating the young voices within our community, underlining a growing interest and active participation in the teachings of faith. Martha's Circle, a cornerstone of our community, has expanded with the welcoming of new hands, contributing to a multitude of successful projects.

Confirmation, Bible Study, and morning prayer continue to transform and enrich the lives of those who actively engage while impacting the rest of our community through their efforts. As we step into the new year, we anchor ourselves in the promises of Baptism, understanding that each day is an opportunity to share the uplifting message of Christ with an ever-expanding world.

In 2023, our shared journey will be marked by a united response to the enduring promises bestowed upon us by God. Together, we are called to worship, delve into Scripture, partake in Holy Communion, engage in prayer, deepen our understanding of faith, trust in God, extend compassion to the vulnerable, and tirelessly work for justice and peace. These tasks, imprinted upon us during our Baptisms, remain steadfast; what evolves is our collaborative and ever-growing approach to fulfilling them.

Heartfelt appreciation extends to the people of St. Michael's for their unwavering partnership with the wider church. I continue to serve as a member and chairperson of the NJ Synod Mission Advocacy Table and as a coach within the NJ Synod and the ELCA Coaching Team. This summer I will be serving as part of the logistics team at the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The anticipation of the opportunities that 2023 holds for us to collectively be disciples in the world fills me with excitement.



My thanks and appreciation to the congregational council and our dedicated St. Michael's staff - Mark Dishong, Danielle Korte, and Paul Makin - for their invaluable partnership in this ministry. On a personal note, I extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed to building a sense of community for myself and my family over the past year.

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." - **1 Thessalonians 5:11**

PASTORAL STATISTICS

Visitation

Homebound Visits - 8
Homebound Calls - 38
Member Visits (Home/Hospital/Rehab Center/Etc) - 7
Baptism Planning - 2
Funeral Planning - 9
Member Phone Calls - 55

Meetings

Pericope - 50
Congregational Council - 10
NJ Mission Advocacy Table - 1
Annual Meeting - 1
Delaware District Assembly/Bulington-Camden Cluster - 1
Christian Ed Team - 1
Confirmation Camp Meeting - 4
Bishop's Meeting for Rostered Leaders - 2
NJ Synod Virtual Ministerium Day - 0
Social Justice and Advocacy Team - 1
Worship Planning - 2
NJ Synod Assembly - 1
Youth Gathering Planning Team - 0
Youth Group Planning - 2
Worship Assistant Training - 3
Youth and Family Team - 1
Worship Video Tech Training - 2
Memorial Fund Team - 1
Greater Kingston Civic Association - 1
Membership Team - 1
Staff Reviews - 1
Altar Guild Meet Up - 1
Confirmation Orientation - 1
Rostered Ministers Gathering Team - 2
Special Congregational Meeting - 1
BSFF Planning - 3
Budget Preparation Meeting - 0
Property Team - 10

Christian Education

Confirmation - 22
Confirmation Lunch and Rehearsal - 1
Good Friday Event - 1
Middle/High School Retreat - 1

Adult Ed: Bible Study - 42

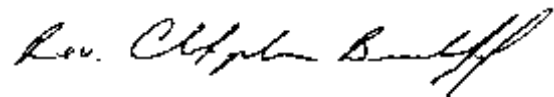
Worship

In Person Sunday Worship - 93
Virtual Worship - 75
Festival Services (Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, etc.) - 6
Virtual Holden Evening Prayer for Lent - 6
Holden Evening Prayer for Advent - 4
Pop Up Nativity - 1
Morning Prayer Service - 9
Sermons - 104
Funeral - 6
Baptism - 5
Affirmation Of Baptism - 5
Youth Sunday Worship - 1
Blessing of the Backpacks - 8
Blessing of the Animals - 5

Other - 0

NJ Synod Assembly - 1
Website Update/Additions - 32
Clean Up Day - 2
Continuing Ed Days Used - 4 (1 Sunday)
Vacation Days Used - 18 (4 Sundays)
Pancake Dinner - 0
Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising - 6
Mission Fair - 1
Congregational Events - 3

In Christ,



Rev. Christopher Bruesehoff
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
Cherry Hill, NJ
January 25, 2024

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC'S REPORT

We are nearly back to pre-pandemic musical activities at St. Michael's. We are blessed with many musicians who provide beautiful music to our worship services each week. Many thanks to these talented musicians for their gifts of time and talent in providing musical offertories this past year: Josephine Billet, Allen Carr, Tim Cook, Laura Dishong, Eleanor Dishong, Erlinda Hair, Dennis Purves, Karen Roorda and Cynthia Tjoa.

The Handbell Choir played many anthems during this time and throughout 2023. I am grateful for these people who spend their time and talents rehearsing on Thursday nights and playing for our worship services: Josephine Billet, Kim Billet, Gabriele Clark, Vicki Clemson, Kelly Daly, Linda David, Elizabeth DeBacker, Madelynn DeBacker, Laura Dishong, Ed Nace, and Dennis Purves.

During the past year, the Adult Choir sang anthems on selected Sundays. We rehearse after the 11:00 am worship service in the fall, winter and spring. We have continued to make the choir an intergenerational choir by including interested and talented young singers. The choir is made up of the following personnel: Shirley Beers, Josephine Billet, Kim Billet, Pastor Chris Bruesehoff, Kelly Daly, Sam Cook, Tim Cook, Elizabeth DeBacker, Madelynn DeBacker, Laura Dishong, Terri Erickson, Erlinda Hair, Donna Hammer, Aiden Kidd, Gloria Love, Ed Nace, Dennis Purves and Karen Roorda.

We brought back the opportunity of the Festival Choir for the Easter and Christmas Seasons. The Festival Choir is designed to provide an opportunity for members and friends to sing during these select holidays. Thanks to Josephine Billet, Amanda Kern and Gail Kern for participating this past year.

I am grateful to work collaboratively with Pastor Chris Bruesehoff on planning and implementing worship here at St. Michael's. I am also thankful for the support of the Congregational Council and all of the members and friends of St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Dishong

TREASURER'S REPORT

2023 Asset/Fund Balances:

In 2023, Total Asset/Fund Balances decreased by \$5,955. While the cash assets on hand grew from the capital campaign contributions, they were offset by the increase in dedicated funds for the capital campaign and the withdrawal of \$17,812 to balance the budget.

2023 Budget to Actual Comparison:

General Fund. Income received was \$293,724 and was behind budgeted income by \$12,287, mostly due to reduced general fund giving. (This does not include the \$7,303 from the Memorial Fund income or the \$42,500 transferred from the Rental Fund). Expenses were \$353,097. This was \$14,080 under budget.

Rental Fund. Income exceeded expenses by \$24,738.

2024 Proposed Budget:

In 2024, we are projecting a budget with expenses exceeding income by \$12,257. This will require supplementing member contributions with cash transferred from rental fund reserves and the income from the memorial fund. We also anticipate using some money in the Exchange account as it was originally dedicated.

Rental Fund: We anticipate Rental Fund activity to be stable in 2024 with limited repair and maintenance expenses expected. We expect the continuation of a steady rental income stream. In 2024, we are projecting income to exceed expenses by \$19,421 due to the first increase in rental income in many years. We are budgeting a transfer of \$35,000 from the Rental Fund to the General Fund. This will leave \$15,423 in the Rental Fund at the end of 2024.

Income: In 2023, we are projecting General Fund income to be \$338,090. This is based upon our belief that we will see an increase of 5% in general fund contributions from members, similar to the last several years. However, we do expect income from building usage to be reduced in 2024 based on information from our regular building users. We anticipate utilizing \$2,750 from Exchange accounts as well. Additionally, the 2024 income budget will include the transfer of 2023 Memorial Fund income of \$9,366, and Rental Fund reserves of \$35,000. We elected to take additional money out of the Rental Fund instead of tapping into the Memorial Fund again this year. Our rental properties are stable, and in good condition. We believe we are still maintaining a sufficient balance in the Rental Fund for any repairs needed in 2024.

Expenses: In 2024, we are projecting an expense budget of \$353,097. This is a 1.5% increase from our actual expenses in 2023. The increase is mainly attributed to salary expenses rising 3.2%, offset by reductions in Local Benevolence and utility expenses. (Note: The Local Benevolence account has an \$11k balance and we will still be sharing our resources and gifts in 2024.) Expense category projections for 2024 are based on a combination of input from our church committee and our actual 2023 spending amounts.

Thank you to all church members who contribute their time and talents to preserve and protect St. Michael's financial resources. A special "thank you" to: Financial Secretary Tom Gano and Assistant F.A. Jill Zak; Assistant Treasurers Anne Cassidy and Joe LaRose; Check Signers - Lisa Gess, Kay McConnell, Terri Erickson, Anne Cassidy and Joe LaRose; 2023 Memorial Fund Committee members, Financial Review team members, Administrative Assistant Danielle Korte; and all the Teller Team members.

Respectfully Submitted, Kim Billet, Treasurer

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

<u>Giving Units</u>	<u>Annual Range</u>	<u>Amount Given</u>
10	.01 - 50.00	323
5	50.01 - 100.00	408
34	100.01 - 500.00	8,361
15	500.01 - 1000.00	11,117
41	1000.01 - 3000.00	72,257
9	3000.01 - 5000.00	36,503
8	5000.01 - 7000.00	46,016
3	7000.01 - 10000.00	27,975
2	10000.01 - 15000.00	22,405
2	15000.01 - 20000.00	31,950
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129		\$257,315

- 129 Giving Units contributed a total of \$257,315 to the General Fund.
- \$1,367 was received from visitors with recordable gifts.
- \$258, 682 was the total income for the General Fund.

Total Income Giving:

General	\$258,682
Plate	\$630
Ash Wed	\$380
Lenten	\$402
Maudy Thur	\$107
Good Friday	\$227
Easter	\$1,595
Thanksgiving	\$331
Advent	\$143
Christmas	\$795
Bldg Usage IHOC	\$6,485
Bldg Usage	\$20,900
	<hr/>
	\$290,677

- The average per giving unit was \$2,005 annually, or just under \$38 per week.
- Total contributions by members totaled \$329, 419 for 2023.

Much thanks to all the tellers for their many hours of service throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Gano, Financial Secretary & Jill Zak, Assistant Financial Secretary

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Four members of the Congregation Council are completing regular terms. The outgoing Council class serves as the Nominating Committee (Constitution C13.02). Anne Cassodi, Kim Billet, Ray Kratz and Vicki Clemson were on the committee; Anne Cassidy served as chairperson. The current council membership follows:

<u>Terms Expiring Feb 2024</u>	<u>Terms Expiring Feb 2025</u>	<u>Terms Expiring Feb 2026</u>
Kim Billet	Geof Castle*	Ruth Morgenroth*
Anne Cassidy*	John Winkelman	Karen Roorda*
Vicki Clemson	Kay McConnell*	Martha Burke
Ray Kratz	Vacant	Vacant
Vacant	Youth/Young Adult(1)	

* serving a second term and not eligible to be re-elected.

The Nominating Committee identified the following voting members of the Congregation willing to serve on the Congregation Council for these terms:

Nominees —terms expiring Feb 2025: *Vacant, Youth/Young Adult*

Nominees—terms expiring Feb. 2026: *Vacant*

Nominees —terms expiring Feb 2027: Kim Billet, Terri Erikson, Tim Cook, Patt Serafin, Vacant

St. Michael's Constitution provides that: *The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), and between eight (8) and fourteen (14) members of the congregation. (C12.01)* This slate of nominees meets this requirement.

C12.02. *The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot to serve for up to three (3) years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two (2) full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. Their tenure shall be so arranged so that one-third of the terms expire annually. (St. Michael's 2019 Constitution)*

COUNCIL NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES

Tim Cook:

My name is Tim Cook and I am a lifelong Lutheran. I grew up in Haddon Twp and have a BA from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA and a MAR and STM from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. My daughter Sam and I have been members of St Michael's since the fall of 2022. Prior to that, I was a member of Holy Trinity in Maple Shade where my wife served as pastor. I sing in the choir and serve as an assisting minister, reader and worship tech. I work in accounting and IT at KPI OceanConnect, a global company that sells marine fuel to ships all over the world. In my spare time I enjoy cooking and good beer and bourbon. I also like to play disc golf when I can find the time

Terri Erickson:

Terri Erickson has been in Cherry Hill, NJ since 2021 and found St. Michaels' Church just a few weeks after her move, at which point she knew that St. Michael's would be her new Church Family. She is a proud mother of two children and a grandmother of four beautiful grandchildren.

She was born and raised in Southern California and has had the opportunity of living in Wisconsin, Arizona, Texas and now New Jersey. All of her journeys have brought many more opportunities to her than ever imagined.

Owning her own business as a Bookkeeper and Tax Preparer has made it possible to give more time to serving the Lord and develop into a stronger follower of Jesus.

Someday, Terri would like to serve as a Stevens Minister. Being able to listen, care encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through a crisis or difficult time is something that her heart desires to do. Another passion that Terri has is to volunteer as a baby cuddler in the Neonatal Ward at the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia. Terri is honored to have been asked to join the Church Council as this is another way of helping her Church grow, while serving her community and our Lord.

Patt Serafin

I was a member of Holy Trinity and now a member of St. Michaels. I joined Martha Circle , and the Altar Guild, I also serve as a Teller. I am a Delran resident. I am the proud Mom of two daughters and two grandsons and two granddaughters. I am a retired Banker. I am a crafter, enjoy the shore, movies and other activities .

ASSET/FUND BALANCE

	<u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>12/31/2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cash - TD Bank	\$86,939	\$49,571	\$37,368
ELCA Mission Investments	\$1,035	\$1,037	(\$2)
Charles Schwab	\$161	\$165	(\$4)
Total General Fund Assets	\$88,134	\$50,773	\$37,361
Dedicated (Restricted) Funds	\$111,253	\$55,452	\$55,801
Unrestricted Fund Balance	(\$23,119)	(\$4,679)	(\$18,440)
<u>Rental Fund</u>			
Cash - TD Bank	\$32,089	\$50,157	(\$18,068)
Mission Investment	\$1,458	\$1,453	\$5
Total Rental Fund Balance	\$33,547	\$51,610	(\$18,063)
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	\$345,710	\$315,194	\$30,516
<u>Youth Gathering Fund</u>	\$7,772	\$7,741	\$31
<u>Total Fund Balances</u>	\$363,910	\$369,866	(\$5,955)

ATTENDANCE REPORT

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Change</u>
<u>Average Virtual Attendance</u>				
Knowing that multiple people participate through a single device. We use the 7 day unique viewers reported by Facebook and YouTube multiplied by 1.5.	65	85	79	-6
Average In-person Attendance	55	75	100	+25
<u>Average Combined Attendance</u>				
Our combined average attendance for the year includes both in-person and virtual participation. The same multiplier (1.5) is used on the virtual attendance number.	133	160	179	+19

2024 PROPOSED RENTAL FUND SPENDING PLAN

		2024 Spending Plan	2023 Spending Plan	2022 Spending Plan	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
	Rental Income					
1	104 Chapel	\$22,428.00	\$21,360	\$21,360	\$21,360	\$21,360
2	106 Chapel	\$20,825.00	\$20,400	\$20,400	\$20,300	\$18,700
3	Other - Interest					
4	Income Total	\$43,253.00	\$41,760	\$41,760	\$41,660	\$40,060
	Rental Expenses					
	104 Chapel -					
5	Legal fees					
6	Management fee	\$1,560	\$1,560	\$1,560	\$1,560	\$1,560
7	Property taxes	\$6,531.00	\$6,531	\$6,465	\$6,732	\$6,531
8	Repairs & maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$0	\$3,036
9	Utilities & protection plans	\$959.00	\$959	\$949	\$450	\$959
10	104 Chapel Total	\$12,050.00	\$12,050	\$13,474	\$8,742	\$12,086
	106 Chapel -					
11	Legal fees					
12	Management fee	\$1,560.00	\$1,560	\$1,560	\$1,560	\$1,300
13	Property taxes	\$5,987.00	\$5,987	\$5,926	\$6,170	\$5,987
14	Repairs & maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$3,000	\$2,550	\$0	\$1,946
15	Utilities & protection plans	\$1,235.00	\$1,235	\$0	\$450	\$1,235
16	106 Chapel Total	\$11,782.00	\$11,782	\$10,036	\$8,180	\$10,468
17	Expense Total	\$23,832.00	\$23,832	\$23,510	\$16,922	\$22,554
18	Income less Expense	\$19,421.00	\$17,928	\$18,250	\$24,738	\$17,506
19	Cash balances, January 1	\$31,004.00	\$48,232	\$51,861	\$50,133	\$51,861
20	Income less Expense	\$19,421.00	\$17,928	\$18,250	\$24,738	\$17,506
21	Transfer to General Fund	\$35,000.00	\$35,156	\$21,135	\$42,500	\$21,135
22	Cash balance, December 31	\$15,425	\$31,004	\$48,976	\$32,371	\$48,232

2024 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND SPENDING PLAN

		A	B	C	D
		2024 Proposed	2023 Actual	2023 Spending Plan	2022 Actual
Income (Contributions)					
1	General Fund Envelopes	\$271,679	\$258,742	\$301,442	\$247,804
2	Plate Offering	\$670	\$670	\$1,277	\$1,277
3	Sunday Church School	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4	Ash Wednesday	\$399	\$380	\$418	\$380
6	Lenten Offering	\$422	\$402	\$572	\$520
7	Maundy Thursday	\$112	\$107	\$127	\$115
8	Good Friday	\$239	\$228	\$171	\$155
9	Easter	\$1,570	\$1,495	\$1,078	\$980
10	Thanksgiving	\$348	\$331	\$391	\$355
11	Advent	\$150	\$143	\$605	\$550
12	Christmas	\$835	\$795	\$1,287	\$1,170
13	Building Use - IHOC	\$5,400	\$6,498	\$5,400	\$5,400
14	Building Use - Other	\$11,900	\$20,000	\$11,300	\$11,914
15	Devotional Booklets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
16	Lutheran Magazine	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
20	Interest/Dividends	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$84)
21	Transfer- Rental Income	\$35,000	\$42,500	\$35,156	\$21,135
22	Memorial Fund Income	\$9,366	\$7,303	\$7,303	\$9,825
23	Memorial Fund Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$34,600
24	Income Total	\$338,090	\$339,594	\$366,527	\$353,930
25	Exchange Offset	\$2,750	\$2,950	\$2,950	
26	Adjusted Income	\$340,840	\$342,544	\$369,477	
Expenses					
28 Benevolence					
29	Mission Support-ELCA	\$32,407	\$28,504	\$32,499	\$27,062
30	Local Giving 2%	\$0	\$5,701	\$6,500	\$5,324
31	Compensation Aid Fund	\$822	\$822	\$822	\$822
32	World Hunger 0.5%	\$1,620	\$1,425	\$1,625	\$1,385
33	Benevolence Total	\$34,849	\$36,452	\$41,446	\$34,593

2024 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND SPENDING PLAN

35 Staff Compensation

36	Salary-Pastor	\$81,215	\$78,696	\$78,696	\$73,619
37	Pension Plan	\$12,339	\$12,228	\$12,339	\$10,920
38	Auto Milage Reimbursement	\$2,000	\$419	\$2,000	\$0
39	Health Insurance	\$35,748	\$36,452	\$35,748	\$33,984
40	Housing Equity	\$2,508	\$2,508	\$2,508	\$2,508
41	Survivor	\$823	\$917	\$823	\$819
42	Disability Plan	\$925	\$815	\$925	\$1,183
43	Education-Pastor	\$857	\$1,232	\$700	\$953
44	Conferences-Pastor	\$375	\$50	\$375	\$0
45	Internet	\$1,920	\$1,728	\$1,728	\$1,728
46	Books/Supplies Pastor	\$375	\$215	\$375	\$0
47	Cell Phone - Pastor	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
48	Salary-Music Directr	\$36,868	\$35,725	\$35,725	\$33,329
49	Social Security Tax	\$2,821	\$2,733	\$2,733	\$2,550
50	Salary- Office Staff	\$19,608	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$19,278
51	Social Security Tax	\$1,500	\$1,453	\$1,453	\$1,475
52	Salary-Custodian	\$23,160	\$22,441	\$22,441	\$20,936
53	Social Security Tax	\$1,772	\$1,717	\$1,717	\$1,602
54	Staff Compensation Total	\$225,413	\$218,929	\$219,886	\$205,484

56 General Ministries

57	Martha Circle	\$400	\$350	\$350	\$436
58	Evangelism Expenses	\$300	\$246	\$300	\$50
59	Parish Life & Coffee	\$500	\$234	\$500	\$361
60	Stewardship	\$75	\$41	\$75	\$45
61	Social Ministry	\$300	\$129	\$300	\$271
62	Membership	\$100	\$13	\$200	\$63
63	Youth Group	\$750	\$503	\$650	\$0
64	Youth Gathering	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,050
65	General Ministries Total	\$2,425	\$1,517	\$2,375	\$2,276

2024 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND SPENDING PLAN

67 Worship & Music

68	Music Supplies	\$500	\$543	\$500	\$374
69	Piano/Organ Maintenance	\$1,500	\$1,675	\$1,200	\$1,295
70	Supply Organists, etc	\$600	\$400	\$400	\$450
71	Offering Envelopes	\$500	\$685	\$500	\$624
72	Altar Supplies	\$700	\$500	\$500	\$702
73	Devotion Booklets	\$800	\$536	\$800	\$617
74	Sound System*	\$1,750	\$0	\$1,750	\$35
75	Licensing Fees	\$1,200	\$1,033	\$1,200	\$1,247
76	Supply Pastors	\$1,000	\$981	\$1,000	\$486
77	Instrumentalists	\$400	\$250	\$400	\$0
78	Worship & Music Total	\$8,950	\$6,603	\$8,250	\$5,830

80 Christian Education

81	PreK-12*	\$500	\$1,066	\$500	\$129
82	Summer Programs	\$0	\$0	\$100	
83	Confirmation-Supplies*	\$500	\$400	\$500	\$678
84	Adult Education	\$150	\$43	\$300	\$0
85	Christian Education Total	\$1,150	\$1,508	\$1,400	\$807

87 Administrative

88	Postage & Bulk Mail	\$1,000	\$1,095	\$1,000	\$901
89	Prntg & Office Suppl	\$1,200	\$1,066	\$1,700	\$1,739
90	AED/CPR	\$485	\$225	\$400	\$443
91	Misc. Admin./Legal	\$700	\$139	\$500	\$890
92	Copier Contract/Supplies	\$4,300	\$4,205	\$3,750	\$3,471
93	Professional Fees	\$200	\$196	\$250	\$0
94	Computer Upgrade/Software	\$2,175	\$1,029	\$2,175	\$1,406
95	Synod Assembly	\$300	\$390	\$150	\$180
96	Communications/Marketing	\$500	\$701	\$500	\$239
97	Bank Charges	\$1,981	\$1,981	\$1,750	\$1,676
98	Church Insurance-All	\$6,300	\$24,450	\$14,640	\$14,640
99	Telephone & Internet	\$3,300	\$3,321	\$3,100	\$3,152
100	Administrative Total	\$22,441	\$38,797	\$29,915	\$28,737

2024 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND SPENDING PLAN

102 Property

103	Misc Suppl.-Property	\$2,000	\$1,634	\$2,000	\$1,862
104	Gen.Mnt/Repair-Churc	\$6,600	\$11,124	\$6,500	\$11,159
105	Cleaning Supplies	\$900	\$981	\$900	\$770
106	Lawn/Snow Maint.	\$11,000	\$3,620	\$11,000	\$9,940
107	PSE&G-Church	\$20,000	\$18,590	\$25,000	\$24,654
108	Garden Committee	\$400	\$200	\$200	\$0
109	Fire Alarm Maintenance	\$2,550	\$4,173	\$2,550	\$2,715
110	Floor Cleanng/Roof Sealng		\$0		\$0
111	Water/Sewer-Church	\$1,349	\$1,540	\$1,599	\$1,349
112	Trash Removal	\$2,900	\$2,889	\$2,000	\$2,068
113	HVAC Contract	\$1,500	\$1,269	\$1,500	\$1,224
114	St. Michaels Parish House	\$1,000	\$1,272	\$1,000	\$864
115	Gen.Mnt/Repr-Abingto	\$750	\$1,522	\$750	\$1,039
116	PSE&G-920 Abington	\$2,706	\$3,136	\$2,706	\$2,567
117	Water/Sewer-Abington	\$1,200	\$1,654	\$1,200	\$1,285
118	Capital Improvements	\$6,200	\$4,350	\$5,000	\$4,686
119	Property Total	\$61,055	\$57,951	\$63,905	\$66,182
121	Expense Total	\$356,283	\$361,757	\$367,177	\$343,090
122	Income vs. Expense	(\$15,443)	(\$19,213)	(\$650)	(\$7,813)

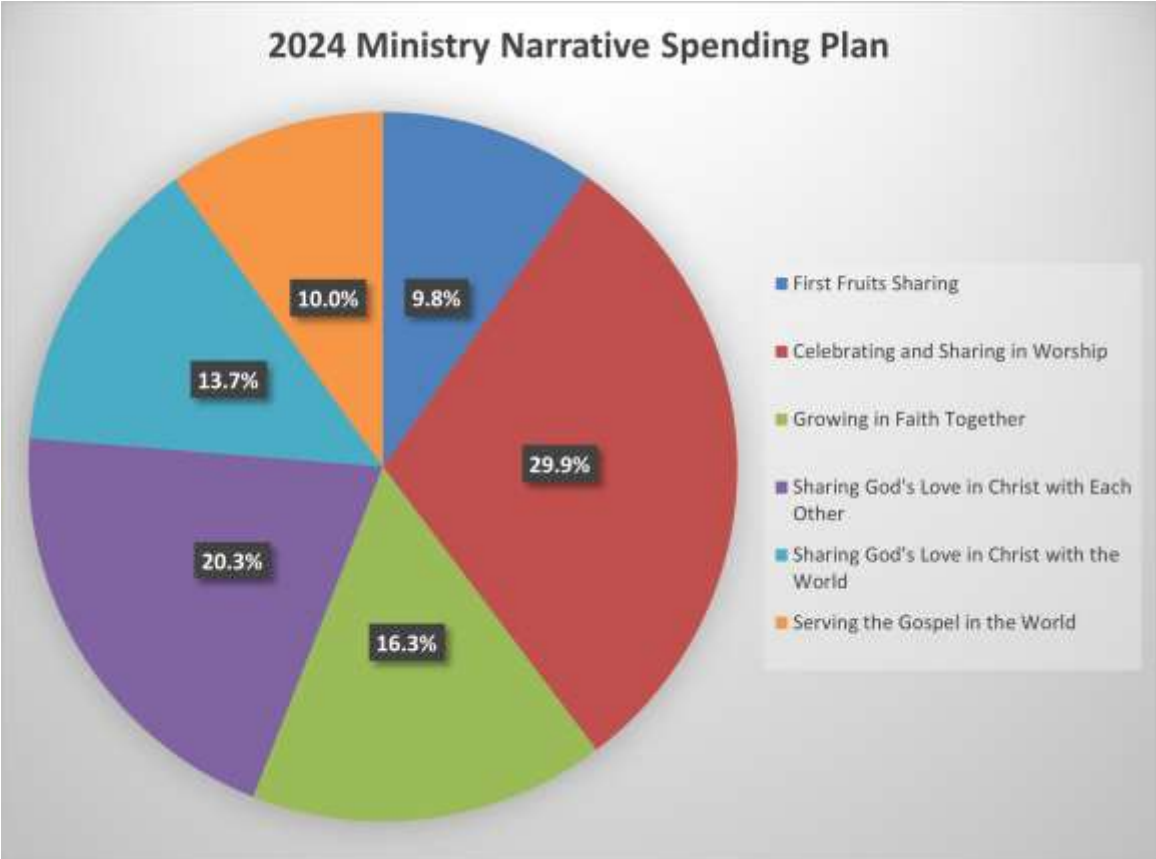
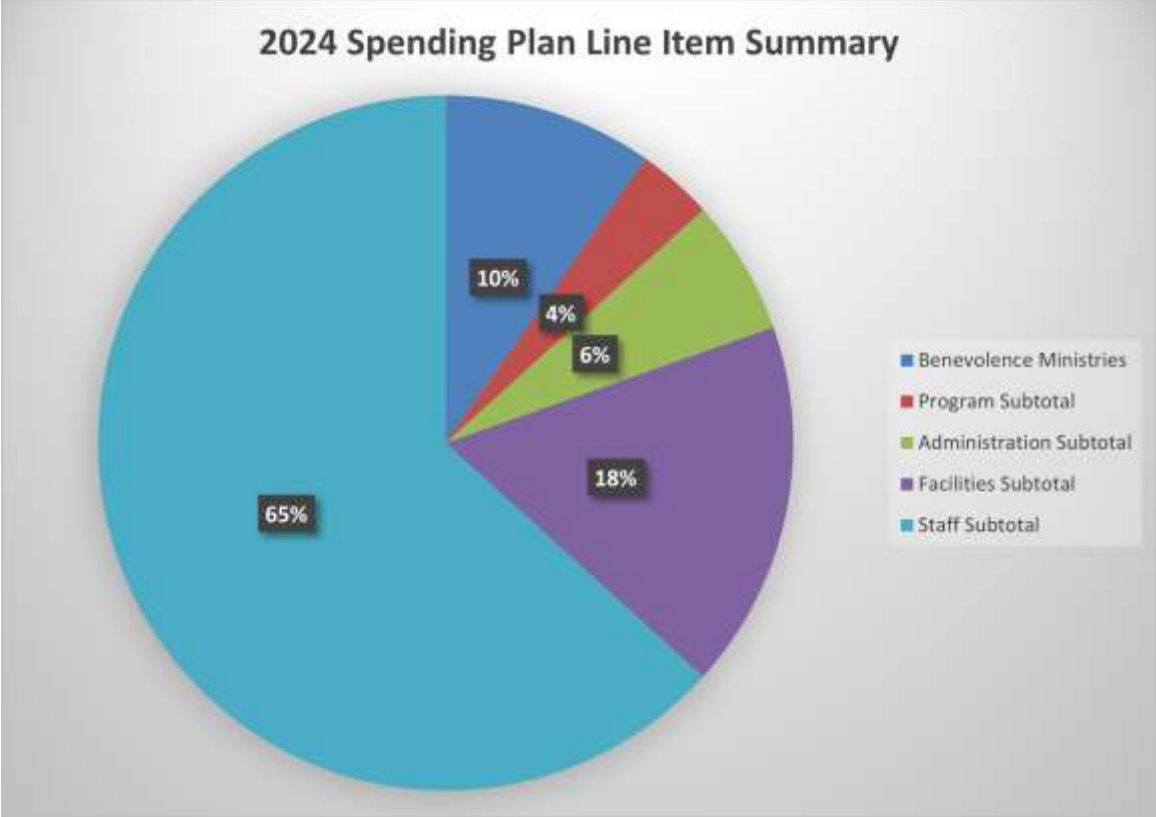
2024 PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN LINE ITEM SUMMERY

Category	2022 Spending Plan	%	2022 Actuals	%	2023 Spending Plan	%	2023 Actuals	%	2024 Spending Plan	%
General Contributions	\$259,123	74%	\$247,804	74%	\$301,442	82%	\$258,742	76%	\$271,679	80%
Plate, Building, etc	\$23,784	7%	\$22,732	7%	\$22,626	6%	\$31,049	9%	\$22,045	7%
Memorial Fund Income	\$9,825	3%	\$9,825	3%	\$7,303	2%	\$7,303	2%	\$9,366	3%
Rental Fund Income	\$21,135	6%	\$21,135	6%	\$35,156	10%	\$42,500	13%	\$35,000	10%
Memorial Fund Transfer	\$34,602	10%	\$34,600	10%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Grants, Loans, etc	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
TOTAL INCOME	\$348,469		\$336,096		\$366,527		\$339,594		\$338,090	
NJ Synod Mission Support	\$28,291		\$27,062		\$32,499		\$28,504		\$32,407	
Synod Compensation Aid	\$828		\$822		\$822		\$822		\$822	
World Hunger	\$1,415		\$5,324		\$1,625		\$1,425		\$1,620	
Local Outreach	\$5,658		\$1,385		\$6,500		\$5,701		\$0	
Benevolence Ministries	\$36,192	10%	\$34,593	10%	\$41,446	11%	\$36,452	10%	\$34,849	10%
Worship and Music	\$5,950		\$5,830		\$8,250		\$6,603		\$8,950	
Christian Education	\$2,400		\$807		\$1,400		\$1,509		\$1,150	
Parish Life	\$500		\$361		\$500		\$234		\$500	
Youth and Family	\$650		\$1,050		\$650		\$503		\$750	
General Programs	\$1,275		\$865		\$1,225		\$779		\$1,175	
Program Subtotal	\$10,775	3%	\$8,913	3%	\$12,025	3%	\$9,628	3%	\$12,525	4%
Office / Administration	\$16,115		\$14,097		\$15,275		\$14,347		\$16,141	
Insurance	\$14,000		\$14,640		\$14,640		\$24,450		\$6,300	
Administration Subtotal	\$30,115	9%	\$28,737	8%	\$29,915	8%	\$38,797	11%	\$22,441	6%
Church Property	\$54,351		\$61,291		\$59,249		\$51,639		\$56,399	
Parsonage	\$4,656		\$4,891		\$4,656		\$6,312		\$4,656	
Facilities Subtotal	\$59,007	17%	\$66,182	19%	\$63,905	17%	\$57,951	16%	\$61,055	18%
Pastor	\$129,502		\$126,314		\$136,817		\$135,860		\$139,684	
Director of Music	\$36,124		\$35,879		\$38,458		\$38,458		\$39,689	
Administrative Assistant	\$24,062		\$20,753		\$20,453		\$20,453		\$21,108	
Custodian	\$22,692		\$22,538		\$24,158		\$24,158		\$24,932	
Staff Subtotal	\$212,380	61%	\$205,484	60%	\$219,886	60%	\$218,929	61%	\$225,413	65%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$348,469		\$343,909		\$367,177		\$361,757		\$356,283	
Net	\$0		-\$7,813		-\$650		-\$22,163		-\$18,193	
Exchange Offset					2950		2950		\$2,750	
Adjusted Net			\$2,300				-\$19,213		-\$15,443	

2024 PROPOSED MINISTRY NARRATIVE SPENDING PLAN

Category	2022 Spending Plan	%	2022 Actuals	%	2023 Spending Plan	%	2023 Actuals	%	2024 Spending Plan	%
TOTAL INCOME	\$348,469		\$336,096		\$366,527		\$339,594		\$338,090	
General	\$259,123	74.4%	\$247,804	71.1%	\$301,442	87%	\$258,742	87%	\$271,679	80.4%
Plate, Building, etc	\$23,784	6.8%	\$22,732	6.5%	\$22,626	6%	\$31,049	9.1%	\$22,045	6.5%
Memorial Fund Income	\$9,825	2.8%	\$9,825	2.8%	\$7,303	2%	\$7,303	2.2%	\$9,366	2.8%
Rental Fund Income	\$21,135	6.1%	\$21,135	6.1%	\$35,156	10%	\$42,500	12.5%	\$35,000	10.4%
Memorial Fund Transfer	\$34,602	9.9%	\$34,600	9.9%	\$0	0%	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
Grants, Loans, etc	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
First Fruits Sharing	\$36,192	10.4%	\$34,593	10.1%	\$41,446	11%	\$36,452	10.1%	\$34,849	9.8%
NJ Synod Mission Support	\$28,291	8.1%	\$27,062	7.8%	\$32,499	9%	\$28,504	7.9%	\$32,407	9.1%
Synod Compensation Aid	\$828	0.2%	\$822	0.2%	\$822	0%	\$822	0.2%	\$822	0.2%
World Hunger	\$1,415	0.4%	\$5,324	1.5%	\$1,625	0%	\$1,425	0.4%	\$1,620	0.5%
Local Outreach	\$5,658	1.6%	\$1,385	0.4%	\$6,500	2%	\$5,701	1.6%	\$0	0.0%
Celebrating and Sharing in Worship	\$100,293	28.8%	\$99,637	29.0%	\$106,271	29%	\$105,468	29.2%	\$106,617	29.9%
Program Costs	\$5,950	1.7%	\$5,830	1.7%	\$8,250	2%	\$6,603	1.8%	\$8,950	2.5%
Staff Salary Allocation	\$29,244	8.4%	\$30,821	8.8%	\$30,622	9%	\$31,759	8.8%	\$28,573	8.0%
Facility/Admin Cost Allocation	\$65,099	18.7%	\$62,985	18.1%	\$67,400	19%	\$67,106	18.6%	\$69,094	19.4%
Growing in Faith Together	\$58,462	16.8%	\$55,736	16.2%	\$59,712	16%	\$58,411	16.1%	\$57,948	16.3%
Program Costs	\$3,325	1.0%	\$1,965	0.6%	\$2,325	1%	\$2,066	0.6%	\$2,075	0.6%
Staff Salary Allocation	\$25,589	7.3%	\$26,969	7.7%	\$26,794	8%	\$27,789	7.7%	\$25,001	7.0%
Facility/Admin Cost Allocation	\$29,549	8.5%	\$26,802	7.7%	\$30,593	9%	\$28,556	7.9%	\$30,872	8.7%
Sharing God's Love in Christ with Each Other	\$70,035	20.1%	\$71,933	20.9%	\$73,066	20%	\$74,073	20.5%	\$72,388	20.3%
Program Costs	\$700	0.2%	\$797	0.2%	\$850	0%	\$584	0.2%	\$900	0.3%
Staff Salary Allocation	\$36,555	10.5%	\$38,527	11.1%	\$38,277	11%	\$39,698	11.0%	\$35,716	10.0%
Facility/Admin Cost Allocation	\$32,780	9.4%	\$32,609	9.4%	\$33,939	10%	\$33,791	9.3%	\$35,772	10.0%
Sharing God's Love in Christ with the World	\$48,012	13.8%	\$47,846	13.9%	\$50,042	14%	\$51,042	14.1%	\$48,964	13.7%
Program Costs	\$300	0.1%	\$50	0.0%	\$300	0%	\$246	0.1%	\$300	0.1%
Staff Salary Allocation	\$29,244	8.4%	\$30,821	8.8%	\$30,622	9%	\$31,759	8.8%	\$28,573	8.0%
Facility/Admin Cost Allocation	\$18,468	5.3%	\$16,975	4.9%	\$19,121	5%	\$19,037	5.3%	\$20,091	5.6%
Serving the Gospel in the World	\$35,475	10.2%	\$34,164	9.9%	\$36,640	10%	\$36,311	10.0%	\$35,516	10.0%
Program Costs	\$500	0.1%	\$271	0.1%	\$300	0%	\$129	0.0%	\$300	0.1%
Staff Salary Allocation	\$10,967	3.1%	\$11,558	3.3%	\$11,483	3%	\$11,909	3.3%	\$10,715	3.0%
Facility/Admin Cost Allocation	\$24,008	6.9%	\$22,335	6.4%	\$24,857	7%	\$24,273	6.7%	\$24,501	6.9%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$348,469		\$343,909		\$367,177		\$361,757		\$356,283	
NET	\$0		(\$7,813)		(\$650)		(\$22,163)		(\$18,193)	
Exchange Offset					\$2,950		\$2,950		\$2,750	
Adjusted Net					\$2,300		(\$19,213)		(\$15,443)	

2024 PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN CHARTS



RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

RESOLUTION 1: A RESOLUTION TO COMPLETE 2022-2023 FINANCIAL REVIEWS

Be it resolved that the Congregation of St. Michael's Lutheran Church gathered for its Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 28, 2024 approves of the Audit Committee submitting their report at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in 2025 presenting the results of their review of the financial accounts of the Church for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

RESOLUTION 2: A RESOLUTION TO DISTRIBUTE THE 2023 MEMORIAL FUND INCOME

Be it resolved that that the 2023 Memorial Fund Income of \$9,366 be used to support the 2024 General Operating Fund.

RESOLUTION 3: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2024 GENERAL OPERATING FUND AND RENTAL FUND SPENDING PLANS

Be it resolved that St. Michael's Congregation gathered for the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024 approves the 2024 General Operating Fund and Rental Fund Income and Expense Plans as recommended by the Congregation Council.

FINANCIAL REVIEW TASK GROUP

The financial review task group for the years 2020 and 2021 consisted of Dennis Purves, John Winkelman and Anne Cassidy.

They reviewed the accounting records of St Michael's General Fund, Rental Fund, Youth Fund, Vanguard account and Mission Investment accounts. The committee reviewed bank reconciliations and General Ledger records as well as the 2020 and 2021 Annual Reports for the above names funds and accounts and found no material discrepancies.

They selected a judgmental sample of general ledger items, both income and expense entries, and traced these back to supporting documentation, i.e. deposits to bank statements and expenses to bills and checks issued.

Based on this review of the accounting records as outlined above, we found no material discrepancy in the records or reports included in the 2020 or 2021 Annual Reports. The 2020 and 2021 review were completed by the week of 12/11/23.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Cassidy

2023 BENEVOLENCE REPORT

Financial Gifts Shared - All Sources -

NJ Synod ELCA Mission Support	\$28,504	
Pastor's Discretion Fund	\$525	
Local Benevolence	\$3,500	LRIS \$1,500; Misión Luterana Reconciliación \$2,000
ELCA Hunger Program	\$2,400	
Thanksgiving Turkey/Easter Hams	\$500	
NJ Synod Clergy Compensation Aid Fund	\$822	
Retreats/Summer Camp	\$2,595	
Financial Gifts Total	\$34,883	

All Sources = Proportional Sharing, Designated Gifts & Family Designated Memorial & Living Memorial Fund Distributions

In-Kind Contributions -

Narcotics Anonymous Rent Free Use of Space	\$3,000	Assumes 12 weeks,\$50/use, 5 uses per week less NA donations.
Un-Trim-a-Tree Christmas Gifts	\$1,025	41 Gift Cards @\$25
LSM North Camden Food Pantry	\$3,600	Assumes Monthly Collection of 20 bags @\$15
Bag-a-Easter Dinner (excluding Ham)	\$1,750	Assumes 50 bags @\$35
Bag-a-Thanksgiving Dinner (excluding Turkey)	\$1,750	Assumes 50 bags @\$35
New Visions/Joseph's House Breakfast	\$2,160	Assumes 12 casseroles @\$15 for 12 months
In-Kind Total	\$13,285	

MEMORIAL FUND REPORT

As of 12/31/2023 the Memorial Fund assets are held in the following investments:

Certificates of Deposits 19%, Bonds 37% and Stocks 44%. This is a 56% Fixed Income and 44% stock mix.

There are 6 Certificates of Deposits held in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Approximately one matures every year. The annual 2023 return was 2.23%. Total CD values \$55,951.93.

The Stock and Bond portfolio consists of 6 Vanguard Mutual Funds:

SP 500 index Fund (VFIAX)
Balanced Fund (VBIAX)
Mid Cap Fund (VMVAX)
High Yield Corporate Fund (VWEHX)
Short Term Investment Grade Bonds (VBIRX)
Total bond market index (VBTLX)

Total Stock and Bond portfolio value is \$279,472 vs \$250,194 in 2022. That is an increase of 11.70%.

The total portfolio for 2023 was \$344,466 vs \$315,194 in 2022.

The Memorial Fund's earnings from interest, dividends and capital gains was \$29,278 in 2023 vs \$7,303 in 2022. Distributions from the Memorial Fund are reflected in the General Fund Financial Statement. The Memorial Fund value as of January 2024 is \$344,466.94.

The Memorial Fund Committee continues to monitor the investment portfolio to ensure it follows its investment guidelines, which is a conservative portfolio allocation. The committee strives for a 60(fixed)/40(stock) mix.

Respectfully Submitted:
Saint Michael's Memorial Fund Committee
Kim Billet, Anne Cassidy, Geof Castle

*Supporting details are available upon request

2024 COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The goal of the Christian Education Committee is to provide opportunities for educational and spiritual growth in a fun and safe environment.

Kim Billet and Liz DeBacker continue to head up our teaching team for Sunday Church School which meets at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Mark Dishong leads our children in singing and playing hand chimes. The students occasionally provide music during worship service. We hosted two family activities: the Good Friday Family Activity and an Advent Family Activity which included crafts, stories and snacks.

Our Confirmation Ministry is led by Pastor Chris with the assistance of adult volunteers. They meet on select Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Elijah Bruesehoff, Jaxon Bailey, Nicholas Johnson, Ryley Hobson and Emma Porowski were confirmed in June.

Our students were active participants in Crossroads Retreats. We had six students attend the middle school/high school retreat in the spring and seven students attended the Synod Retreat in the fall. We also had eight students attend summer camp.

Pastor Chris led an afternoon and evening Bible Study on Wednesdays.

Thanks to all who share in the ministry of Christian Education!

Respectfully submitted by the CE Committee

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle has been blessed with a year of great growth, as we saw our membership increase by 30%. Our purpose continues to be service to those who are homebound within our church community and friends. We prepared seasonal gift bags with handcrafted items, gifts, candy, Sunday worship bulletin, devotional booklets and any other little comforts that our homebound friends might need or request. We also decorated Patriotic mini bird houses in the spring, pumpkins in the fall, and Christmas mug filled with tea and hot chocolate at Christmas. Our regular visits to their homes and care facilities are always appreciated, as it is wonderful to feel remembered and thought of by their extended community. Additionally, we send out birthday cards to our members who are 65 years and older—which has seen a large increase (over 125 members), sympathy cards to those grieving, get well soon to those who are ill, and Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation greetings as well.

Our Membership for 2023 includes the following: Kathleen Abrams, June Anderson, Diane Bisset, Alva Brunner, Linda David, Vivian Gano, June Grieser, Erlinda Hair, Else Jensen, Gail Kern, Dottie Leonard, Barbara McGonigle, Lynn Megalli, Marlene Patton, Carol Prisco, Carolann Sandone, Patt Serafin, Kathy Schnepf, Cheryl Siebke, Bev Stropes, Janet Thompson, Millie Wilcox, Jill Zak, Holly Zahradnick, and AllySon Zinman.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Abrams

2024 COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNICATION

The goals of the Communication Team are to share updates, news, photos, inspiration with our members and invite the community to join us.

The Communications Team continues to stream the 11:00a.m. service using Facebook Live and YouTube. The services through Facebook allows for interaction through real-time commenting by members of the congregation with Facebook accounts and members of the Communications Team during the service.

In addition to the regular Sunday service, the following services are streamed as well: Lenten Mid-Week and Advent Holden Evening Prayer, Holy Week services, including the Easter Vigil service.

In addition to livestream services, we offer Bible Study and our Monthly Prayer Breakfast through Zoom. We continue to post on both the St. Michael's Facebook page and in the private Facebook groups.

Our private Facebook groups are for people who are active in the life and ministry of St. Michael's. In the groups, posts can be made for requests or needs of the church or just to check in on each other and share good news. All members of the group and posts are approved by a member of the team.

If you have not done so, we invite you to "like" and/or "follow" the St. Michael's Facebook page and join our Facebook group, The People of St. Michael's Cherry Hill, if you have a Facebook account. We also have our SMLC Youth Group for members (and parents) of those involved in the Youth Group.

We welcome any ideas and suggestions. Anyone who would like to join our committee can reach out to Pastor Chris or Liz DeBacker.

Prepared and submitted by the Communications Team



2024 COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee is continually engaging in meaningful conversation with visitors and members of the congregation on a spiritual and personal level with the purpose of building lifelong relationships. The church provides opportunities for everyone to become a part of our service groups. These organizations enhance and enrich the lives of our brothers and sisters in the church and surrounding communities.

Ongoing Obligations:

- Gift cards and cookies sent to college students
- Monthly report to council
- Parish records
- Welcome bags for visitors

Statistics for 2023

- New members: 60 (41 Transfers, 14 Affirmation of Faith, 3 Holy Baptism, 2 Reinstatement of members)
- Deaths: 4
- Removed by Council action: 7
- Year end total: 298

Current Members:

- Anne Cassidy
- Vivian Gano
- Doreen Mansilla
- Millie Wilcox
- Lisa Gess
- Nancy Gromen
- Vicki Clemson
- Martha Burke

Respectfully Submitted ,
Martha Burke

2024 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROPERTY AND GARDEN

The mission of the Property Committee is to manage and maintain all physical assets of the congregation and to make recommendations to the Congregation Council and to the Congregation on all matters relating thereto.

Our goal is to provide a safe and comfortable environment that is conducive to Worship, Work, Living, Social and Outreach activities that take place within Church-owned facilities. The mission of the Garden Committee is to create and maintain an attractive and low maintenance landscape for the enjoyment of the members of the congregation and the surrounding neighborhood.

In 2023 we continued our efforts to maintain and upgrade our facilities. We take on as many projects as we can on our own (*) to maximize improvements at the least cost to the Congregation. The following projects were completed:

Outdoor Clean-up and Maintenance

The Garden Committee continued to maintain the garden beds at St Michaels.

Weeding, fertilizing, and light watering was performed on a regular basis. In addition, we held successful Spring and Fall Clean-up Days where we cleaned the gutters and window wells, trimmed shrubs, raked leaves, added mulch and performed general outdoor clean-up (*).

Replaced shrubs at outdoor sign to facilitate sign access (*)

Miscellaneous Church Repairs /Upgrades

Plumbing work

Replaced (2) fixtures in rest rooms (Plumb Medic)

Miscellaneous repairs in rest rooms and sacristy (Plumb Medic)

Cleared sewer blockages (American Water / Root 24)

HVAC Systems

Repairs to Sanctuary A/C (LM Service)

Replaced A/C Unit in Pastor's Office (McAllister)

Annual Boiler Inspections (Hartford Steam Boiler)

Annual Testing of Backflow Preventer (Root 24)

Annual Maintenance of Boilers and A/C Units (LM Service)

Procured additional folding chairs

Electrical Work (*)

Emergency lights are tested monthly. Replaced failed units and batteries

Replaced 35 lamps in Sanctuary with LED

Installed new LED lights at exterior entrances to choir and lower boiler rooms

Replaced numerous switches and outlets, including exterior GFCIs for Sunday School Building

Added motion-controlled switches in rest rooms

Reviewed and replaced circuit directory cards for all electrical panels

2024 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fire Protection Services (Cintas)

Annual testing of Alarm System

Annual inspections and testing of Kitchen Suppression System and portable fire extinguishers

Miscellaneous Projects (*)

Replaced floor in closet of large Sunday school room

Added shelving for food pantry

Replaced broken windows

Moved lighted enclosure in Narthex with book for legacy sanctuary gifts

Installed new tarp cover for ladders

Repaired folding tables

Termite Inspection (Premier Pest Solutions)

Elkins Road Upper Door Replacement

Replaced Concrete step (Papaneri & Sons)

Door replaced in January 2024

Parsonage

Installed plywood for storage above garage (*)

Replaced exterior GFCI outlet (*)

Building Sustainability for a Faith-Filled Future

At a Special Meeting held on October 22, the Congregation voted for the following upgrades to our facilities: New upper and lower roofs for Sunday School; Contract with REPM for the addition of a Solar system ; Air Conditioning for Social Hall

A fund-raising campaign was started to solicit donations for the roof replacements and addition of Social Hall A/C. *Funding was secured in 2023 for the roofs and that work will be executed in early 2024.*

Thanks to the following for their efforts to repair, upgrade and beautify our facilities:

Pastor Bruesehoff, Kim Billet, Geoff Castle, Millie Wilcox, Dick Wilcox, Bev Stropes, Lisa Gess Tom Keller, Lauren Gromen, Allen Carr, Chas VanHorn, Fred Weber, Chuck Kern, and everyone who helped at our Clean-up Days

Respectfully submitted:

Larry Ferguson

2024 COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ADVOCACY

In 2023 the Social Outreach and Social Justice and Advocacy Committees continued the activities we have been supporting for the past several years and added new opportunities for education and outreach.

Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council

IHOC continues to use 102 Chapel for transitional housing and to rent office space in the St. Michael's Sunday school wing.

Pack-A-Sack: We filled over twenty backpacks with school supplies which IHOC distributed to shelters and programs serving privileged children.

Adopt-A-Box: We participated in and served as a drop off point for this campaign to collect toiletries for homeless shelter residents.

Grocery certificates: We continued to purchase Acme and ShopRite grocery certificates. These companies donate five percent of the certificates' purchase price to IHOC.

Mall Walk: St. Michael's team raised over \$2,000 for the Walk and for the 11th year in a row won first prize for the team raising the most money.

Lutheran Social Ministries of Camden

Holiday Dinners: We continued our holiday tradition of providing bags of food and monetary donations to needy families living in the Lutheran Social Ministry's affordable homes (LSM homes) in Camden. In November we filled over fifty bags with all the trimmings for a Thanksgiving dinner and donated \$750 towards the purchase of the families' choice of a protein. In April we filled another fifty bags with fixings for an Easter dinner and donated \$500 towards the purchase of the families' choice of protein. Grants from Thrivent Financial (Thrivent) provided \$250 in both November and April for additional grocery items.

Food Pantry: We regularly donated groceries for the LSM homes' food pantry. In addition, we participated in Thrivent's "Feed the Northeast" initiative that provided monetary grants to organizations involved in running food pantries and other feeding projects. St. Michael's applied on behalf of the LSM food pantry and obtained a \$500 donation for the pantry by being among the first 100 groups to collect 500+ food items.

Sharing Tree: As part of our St. Michael's "Untrim-A-Tree" project, we were able to provide Christmas presents for fifty children in the LSM homes.

Fair Trade Coffee and Products

We continued to purchase fair trade bags of coffee, cans of cocoa, boxes of tea and chocolate from the Lutheran World Relief "Equal Exchange" project.

Joseph's House Outreach

St. Michael's members continued to provide approximately a dozen breakfast casseroles once a month to the Joseph's House night shelter. However, in 2023 we also added monthly donations of pasta casseroles which St. Michael's members helped

2024 COMMITTEE REPORTS

serve to shelter clients.

God's Work Our Hands

We were able to hold a successful intergenerational project to support families with seriously ill children staying at The Ronald McDonald House program in Camden. On June 25, congregation members packed 214 bags with nutritional snacks for the children and their family members to eat at the hospital while waiting for treatments or tests. We also added handmade cards to show that we cared and to foster feelings of hope. A \$250 grant from Thrivent helped pay for supplies and additional snacks.

Social Justice and Advocacy.

2023 was the second year for the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee. We explored environmental and LGBTQ+ issues, as well as racial justice issues. The goal of the committee continues to be educating ourselves and our community in regards to systemic and institutional systems of oppression and to affect changes through advocacy. This year we held three activities.

1. We viewed and discussed one episode of the Hulu documentary on Capitalism which was part of the 1619 Project.
2. We read and discussed the book, "Take This Bread." The books and snacks served at the discussion group were provided by a Thrivent grant.
3. We joined author, Jamie Bruesehoff, for a discussion of her book "Raising Kids Beyond the Binary"

Thank You to the volunteers who gave their time, talents, and money to support all these activities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Morgenroth, Anne Cassidy, Kay McConnell, Lisa Gess, Ray Kratz, Joe LaRose and Vivian Gano, Project Coordinators

BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY FOR A FAITH-FILLED FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TEAM

The Building Sustainability for a Faith-Filled Future Capital Campaign has received 41 commitments as of December 31, 2023 toward our goal of \$120,000 for roof repair and HVAC installations in the social hall, kitchen, and choir practice rooms. These commitments total \$83,080. We are grateful to the generosity of the members of St. Michael's and enter 2024 excited to reach our goals and significantly add to the ministries at our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Christopher Bruesehoff and the Capital Campaign Team

2024 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

The Parish Fellowship Committee works to bring the congregation together in fellowship. This year we hosted coffee hours after both services on the first Sunday of each month and after the budget meeting in January. We made a commitment to reduce our waste by using ceramic coffee cups. Many thanks to those who devoted their time for the additional clean-up that is required. Thanks also to the many volunteers who contributed baked goods and treats. We gathered on Fat Tuesday in February to feast on pancakes and sausage before Lent. We hosted a celebration for the confirmands in May. In June, the committee provided a brunch for the congregation to celebrate, along with Pastor Chris and his family, the 20th anniversary of his ordination! The Corn Roast was a washout on our scheduled day in September, but corn, burgers and donuts were enjoyed by all the following weekend. The year culminated with the annual Christmas luncheon. After a delicious meal, the youth entertained us with holiday games.

A big shout-out goes to June Greiser for her amazing organization of our kitchen!

Our team meets as needed, usually on Sundays between services. We are always looking for new members and new ideas for gathering our church family together. Members of the committee are Holly Zahradnick, Sue Shaw, Karen Roorda, Dottie Leonard, Kathy Henry, Nancy Gromen, June Greiser, Lisa Gess, Vivian Gano, Linda David and Vicki Clemson. Thanks for all of your hard work!

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Clemson, Chairperson

YOUTH AND FAMILY

Youth Group is designed for St. Michael's Youth in grades 6-12 with the goal to provide a safe space for young people to explore and grow in faith, community and fellowship. Youth activities in 2023 included game nights, a lock in, hiking, and a Christmas party. The youth also led our services on Youth Sunday in June. Many of our youth support worship throughout the year as acolytes, ushers, lectors, choir members and handbell choir members. Our youth also support several service projects through the year. Our students were active participants in Crossroads Retreats, with six students attending the middle school/high school retreat in the spring and seven students attending the Synod Retreat in the fall. We also had eight students attend summer camp. The youth are grateful to St. Michael's for offsetting the costs of the retreats and enabling so many to participate!

St. Michael's is preparing to send 5 of our youth and two adult leaders to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. The youth attending the Gathering are Jaxon Bailey, Elijah Bruesehoff, Nate DeBacker, Alex Johnson and Nick Johnson. They will be accompanied by Kim Billet and Mark Bruesehoff. The travel team has been working together since September to learn about the Gathering theme, Created to Be, and to connect as a group.

Many thanks to those who support our youth throughout the year - we are grateful for everything you do. I am especially grateful for Elizabeth Winkelman who led our Youth Group through the pandemic through the middle of 2023!

Respectfully Submitted, Kim Billet

2024 WORSHIP CALENDAR

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Observance</u>	<u>Time(s)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
JANUARY 2024				
7-Jan-24		Baptism of Our Lord	815 & 11 AM	
14-Jan-24		2 Epiphany	815 & 11 AM	
21-Jan-24		3 Epiphany		Budget Forum
28-Jan-24	ONE SERVICE	4 Epiphany	10:00 AM	Annual Meeting Sunday
FEBRUARY 2024				
4-Feb-24		5 Epiphany	815 & 11 AM	
11-Feb-24		Transfiguration	815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, February 14, 2024	Ash Wednesday	12 Noon	Spoken Communion
	Wednesday, February 14, 2024	Ash Wednesday	7:30 PM	Holy Communion
18-Feb-24		1 Lent	815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, February 21, 2024	Mid-week Lent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
25-Feb-24		2 Lent	815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, February 28, 2024	Mid-week Lent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
MARCH 2024				
3-Mar-24		2 Lent	815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, March 6, 2024	Mid-week Lent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
10-Mar-24		3 Lent	815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, March 13, 2024	Mid-week Lent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
17-Mar-24		4 Lent	815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, March 20, 2024	Mid-week Lent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
24-Mar-24		Palm/Passion Sunday	815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, March 27, 2024	Mid-week Lent	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer
	Thursday, March 28, 2024	Maundy Thursday	12 Noon	Spoken Communion
	Thursday, March 28, 2024	Maundy Thursday	7:30 PM	Holy Communion
	Friday, March 29, 2024	Good Friday	10:30 AM	Children's Activity
	Friday, March 29, 2024	Good Friday	7:30 PM	Good Friday Worship
	Saturday, March 30, 2024	Vigil of Easter	7:30 PM	
31-Mar-24		Easter	815 & 11 AM	
APRIL 2024				
7-Apr-24		2 Easter	815 & 11 AM	
14-Apr-24		3 Easter	815 & 11 AM	
21-Apr-24		4 Easter	815 & 11 AM	
28-Apr-24		5 Easter	815 & 11 AM	
MAY 2024				
5-May-24		6 Easter	815 & 11 AM	
12-May-24		7 Easter	815 & 11 AM	
19-May-24		Pentecost	8:15 AM	
		Pentecost	11:00 AM	11:00 Confirmation
26-May-24		The Holy Trinity	815 & 11 AM	
JUNE 2024				
2-Jun-24		2 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
9-Jun-24		3 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
16-Jun-24		4 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
23-Jun-24		5 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
30-Jun-24		6 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion

2024 WORSHIP CALENDAR

JULY 2024				
7-Jul-24		7 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
14-Jul-24		8 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
21-Jul-24		9 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
28-Jul-24		10 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
AUGUST 2024				
4-Aug-24		11 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
11-Aug-24		12 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
18-Aug-24		13 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
25-Aug-24		14 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
SEPTEMBER 2024				
1-Sep-24		15 Pentecost	815 & 10 AM	8:15 Spoken Communion
8-Sep-24		16 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	Rally Day
15-Sep-24		17 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	
22-Sep-24		18 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	
29-Sep-24		Michael & All Angels	815 & 11 AM	
OCTOBER 2024				
6-Oct-24		20 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM 4:00 PM	Blessing of Animals
13-Oct-24		21 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM 4:00 PM	Rain Date Blessing of Animals
20-Oct-24		22 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	
27-Oct-24		Reformation Sunday	815 & 11 AM	
NOVEMBER 2024				
3-Nov-24		All Saints	815 & 11 AM	
10-Nov-24		24 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	
17-Nov-24		23 Pentecost	815 & 11 AM	
24-Nov-24		Christ the King	815 & 11 AM	
DECEMBER 2024				
1-Dec-24		1 Advent	815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, December 4, 2024	Mid-week Advent	7:30 PM	Holden Evening Prayer
8-Dec-24		2 Advent	815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, December 11, 2024	Mid-week Advent	7:30 PM	Holden Evening Prayer
15-Dec-24		3 Advent	815 & 11 AM	
	Wednesday, December 18, 2024	Mid-week Advent	7:30 PM	Holden Evening Prayer
22-Dec-24		4 Advent	815 & 11 AM	
	Tuesday, December 24, 2024	Christmas Eve	4:30 PM	Family Service
	Tuesday, December 24, 2024	Christmas Eve	10:00 PM	Festival Liturgy
29-Dec-24	ONE SERVICE	Christmas 1	10:00 AM	Lessons, Carols & Communion
JANUARY 2025				
5-Jan-25		Epiphany of Our Lord	815 & 11 AM	Moved from January 6
12-Jan-25		Baptism of Our Lord	815 & 11 AM	
19-Jan-25		2 Epiphany	815 & 11 AM	
26-Jan-25		3 Epiphany	815 & 11 AM	Budget Forum
FEBRUARY 2025				
2-Feb-25	ONE SERVICE	4 Epiphany	10:00 AM	Annual Meeting Sunday

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty God, you have given your Holy Spirit to the church to lead us into all truth. Bless with the Spirit's grace and presence those who participated in this congregational meeting. Keep us steadfast in faith and united in love, that we may manifest your glory and prepare the way of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Council President: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).

