

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Greenville, South Carolina

December 3, 2023

HAPPENING TODAY

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| Holy Communion | 8:30 am |
| Faith Formation | 9:45 am |
| Holy Communion | 11:00 am |
| Sunday Lunch | 12:00 pm |

NURSERY COVERAGE Erin Lesslie will be in the nursery today and coverage will be available from 8:30 AM through the 11 AM service.

SUNDAY LUNCH will be today following the 11 AM service. Lunch will be provided by Nathan and Liza Cook, Matt and Jessica Wofford and Sarah and Jeff Forrester.

TBC NEIGHBORHOOD BLOOD DRIVE Fellowship United Methodist is hosting a blood drive today December 3rd from 10am -2pm. Location: Bloodmobile at 2703 Augusta St (Fellowship UM) parking lot. Pre-registrations are appreciated, and walk-ins are also needed. Use the link in the blast to sign up. Each donor saves up to three lives AND will receive a \$50 eGift card from The Blood Connection.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES: December 4: Delaine Mooney; December 5: Sarah Williams; December 6: William Russell; December 8: John Thomas Bugay

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY Make plans to attend the SMLC Adult Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9 from 5 - 9 pm at the Spaulding Farms Clubhouse, 100 Spaulding Farm Rd, Greenville 29615. To make the time together more inclusive, the church will provide child care for those with young children! Sarah and Anthony Williams have graciously offered their home (305 Meadowsweet Lane, Greenville, 29615) as the childcare site and Pendleton Fenske and Maddie Bostick will provide childcare. Please use Realm to RSVP so that those who plan to use the service can register, allowing us to keep up with the number of kids present. If needed, we will add additional providers. The childcare will be available from 4:30 - 9:30 pm. This is a drop in style party, so you can come and go as you need ! Please bring a heavy hors d'oeuvre and BYOB. We will provide hot coffee and cider. Plan to join us and celebrate Christmas with our congregation! **Please use the QR code on the bottom of the next page to RSVP!** Questions? Please contact Pastor Andrea or Cynthia Trout.

COMING SOON AND LOOKING AHEAD

MARY HILLER CIRCLE will meet at Block House Restaurant, 1619 Augusta Road, on Monday, December 11 at 7:00. We have reserved the back room and need 15 "firm" diners to sign up by December 8th. If we don't have 15 diners, we will just eat in the restaurant's main area. Please RSVP on Realm.

SAINTS ALIVE will meet Wednesday, December 13 at 12 PM at City Range Restaurant, 615 Hayward Rd. for our annual Christmas Luncheon. Everyone will pay for their own meal, dessert will be provided by Sts. Alive. We will meet in a private room, reception area will direct you. Many of you have already signed up at our November meeting. There are now 6 spaces left. Please contact Donna Scott-Hober if you would like to join the group (864-569-8077).

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT Come and join us at St. Michael for a beloved family tradition! We invite the entire church family to come together and enjoy a fun-filled day of crafting, pizza, and experiencing the joy of decorating our beautiful sanctuary with Chrismon trees. This is the ideal chance to celebrate the Advent season as a church family! This event will be Friday December 15 at 5:00 PM. **Please use the QR code on the bottom of the next page to RSVP!**

MUSIC MINISTRY: NEW PROGRAMMING-GET INVOLVED! Here is how you can be involved in two aspects of our music ministry. Children/Youth Choir: As plans progress for a choir program for our children and youth, it is time to communicate your desire to participate. If you are interested in this for your family members, please contact Deacon David at david@stmichaelelca.org to let him know and to get on the list for future discussions. All family and friends of St. Michael are welcome to participate. This next step is to gauge interest and to determine a meeting time. If you let David know of your interest, he will keep you in the loop about options and plans. Christmas with the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra: Our third musical event for this fall is a Christmas concert by the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra. This program, set for Saturday evening December 16, at 7:00 is being jointly sponsored by S.C. Bach and is free to members of St. Michael and the community. You can get involved by offering to host one of our musicians on Friday and Saturday evening, December 15 and 16. For more information, please contact Deacon David and learn about this unique opportunity.

GENERAL AND ONGOING INFORMATION

CELEBRATING AND CONTINUING OUR STEWARDSHIP AT SMLC! This year's appeal theme pointed us towards the story of Jesus taking what was offered by a few and using it to feed crowds, equip disciples, and worship God. In response, SMLC has continued its ongoing tradition of embodying that hope, generosity, and joy through its gathered Statements of Intent for 2024. Through your shared generosity, we met our anticipated goal of increasing our weekly giving by \$1,313! Our numbers indicate that over 75% of submitted intentions indicate an increase in giving, and we welcomed over 15 new families to the practice of making a Statement of Intent. We are beyond thrilled by this response, and also invite those who have yet to submit their Intent to do so, in the hopes that our shared growth and joy might be include all of our family of faith!

2023 END OF YEAR GIVING We are thrilled by your generosity this year and hope that you will consider making an end of year gift to St. Michael. At their most recent meeting, SMLC's congregational council prayerfully determined a plan for any surplus that we have at the end of 2023. Council decided to tithe 10% of any surplus to two partners in ministry, United Ministries (local) and Lutheran Disaster Response (global) to support relief efforts in the Middle East. The remaining surplus will be directed towards the eventual, necessary work of reworking our septic system, which continues to strain when our facilities are at maximum capacity. If the septic project is fully funded, all remaining contributions will be split between United Ministries and Lutheran Disaster Response. We hope that you will consider supporting St. Michael so that we might avoid a "crappy situation here, while also aiding those who are already in crappy situations, near and far."

CHRISTMAS SHELTER GIFTCARD Donations to the gift card that is presented to our shelter residents for Christmas are now welcomed. Please indicate that your donation is specifically for our shelter residents in the Kay Mellom House. The gift card will be presented early in December. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

SMLC GIVING POLICY St. Michael has created a new Gifts Committee as well as written SMLC's first Gift Policy. This team's hope is that members might take a look and review this policy, so that when generous gifts are shared for the sake of God's church at St. Michael, they can be done both according to the wishes of the giver, as well as to the mission and life of St. Michael going forward. We will continue to have copies of this policy available on the resource table in the corner of the Gathering Area. We hope this might create interest, curiosity, and continued generosity in the hearts of the saints here at SMLC. If you have any questions or ideas concerning making a gift, please contact Pastor Kyle, Van Matthews, Peter Strub, or Jack Williams.

STEPHEN MINISTRY INVITATION

"We are not in an active war zone."

"We are not actively recovering from a natural disaster or weather catastrophe."

"We are not facing a universal water, food, or resource crisis in our own personal lives."

These statements that we might hear or speak could push us to conclude quite simply:

"There are so many who have it worse than me; I don't need the help as much as they do."

This kind intention is supposed to be charitable for those who are suffering. However, pastorally, we are all going through a lot in life. Even beyond unique or tragic occasions in our world today, life is always filled with sudden griefs, changes, and difficulties. Instead of thinking about others' larger needs for a moment, consider what is going in your and your family's life these last few years. What life challenges have you survived but maybe still hold weight or scars from? What transitions have you made in these last few years after the pandemic? Who have you grieved losing where that grief might still be too heavy to bear alone?

Anger, Grief, Isolation, Change. We do not need to be exceptional to experience and wrestle with these. But the good news Jesus offers us is that we are not called to bear these things alone. Prayerfully consider the ways in which you might begin to share your burdens with Jesus in the form of walking with a Stephen Minister, so that you might begin to experience more life, freedom, and peace. If you are interested in learning more about receiving care through Stephen Ministry, please reach out to Pastor Kyle, Jenny Lord, Pastor Dan Kirkpatrick, or Kim Stover.

FRESH ALTAR FLOWERS Are you interested in purchasing Fresh Altar Flowers? Whether it be for a special service, in memory of a loved one, or just because, you are more than welcome to purchase flowers for services on Sundays! In the past St. Michael has frequently used Embassy Flowers (prices range from \$65 and up) and they deliver the flowers and set them in place on Fridays, but if there is somewhere else you would like to use, please feel free. Should you have questions, please contact Ellen in the office at stmichaelca@gmail.com or 864-232-8510.

Attendance for Sunday November 26:

10:00 AM —119

Adult Christmas Party Advent Family Night



If your group has an up-coming meeting, make sure to contact Ellen to ensure it gets on our Calendar.

Calendar for this Week

Monday, December 4

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| AA | 12:00 pm |
| Worship and Music | 6:30 pm |
| 12 Step Group | 7:30 pm |

Tuesday, December 5

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| Prayer Shawl Knitting | 10:30 am |
| AA | 7:00 pm |

Wednesday, December 6

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| Bible Study | 10:30 am |
| Choir | 6:45 pm |

Thursday, December 7

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| 12 Step Group | 7:00 am |
| Breakfast Together | 8:30 am |
| Nursing Mothers | 12:00 pm |
| AA | 7:00 pm |
| Al-Anon | 7:00 pm |
| Al-Anon | 8:00 pm |

Friday, December 8

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| Noon Bunch (AA) | 12:00 pm |
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Saturday December 9

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| SMLC Adult Christmas Party | 5:00 pm |
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Sunday, December 10

Advent II

Lutheran Men Breakfast — 7:30 am

Holy Communion — 8:30 am

Faith Formation — 9:45 am

Holy Communion— 11:00 am

Sunday Lunch — 12:00 pm

Prayer List

Kathleen Black (Friend of Peter and Denise Strub)
Donna Bixby (Friend of The Russell Family)
Addison Boehnlein (niece of Bob & Jeanette Peterson)
Angela Bostick
Regina Conradi (Friend of Peter and Denise Strub)
Bonnie Dees
Bob Dietrick
Anderson Drake Little (Step-Daughter of Carol Drake)
Ben Drennan (Friend of The Gullick Family)
Joedy Eller (cousin of Warren Mowry)
Dennis, Noel, and Murray Gowan (Friend of Russell Family)
Don Hart (friend of Sandy Sughrue)
Jack Hisley (Cindy Jones' brother-in-law)
Keith Howard
Kevin Howard (Keith Howard's brother)
Donna Huffman
Karen Karlik
Stephanie Kaufmann (Friend of Jennifer Fenske)
Wayne Lineberger (Cousin of Roy Gullick)
Nancy Love (friend of Peter and Denise Strub)
Catherine Main (Friend of Diane and Louie Smith)
Bub McConnell
Seth McCullen (Friend of The Russell Family)
Paul Montjoy
Sheri Moutrey (Sister-in-law of Diane Patterson)
Jerry Munson (friend of Mary Lee and Warren Mowry)
Cathy Parks (friend of Karen Karlik)
Daneen Parrish (daughter of Bob & Bonnie Dietrick)
Ed and Patte (Father and Stepmother of Wendy Cunningham)
Lilly Peterson (granddaughter of Bob & Jeanette Peterson)
Larry Plesiewicz (husband of Cindy Smith Plesiewicz)
Janet Rayburn (Friend of Sarah Gullick)
Dianna Rogers (Leaonore Brissey's Daughter)
Ann Rothfuss (Friend of Michelle Carraro)
Ann Rhyne (Mother of David Rhyne)
Kathy Richardson
Hannelore and Siegfried Schuetterle
Steve Sherill (friend of Bert and Donna Weathers)
Sally Sizemore
Kevin Sughrue and Patrick Sughrue (brothers of John Sughrue)
Charlie Thompson (friend of Charles & Donna Huffman)
Catherine Traylor (mother of Sarah Gullick)
Harold Watkins