

Third Sunday in Advent
December 14th, 2025

Order of Service

<u>7:45 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
DSIII (pg. 184)	DSIII (pg. 184)
<u>Hymns</u>	<u>Hymns</u>
346, 354, 352, 355, 333	346, 354, 333

Sermon

"But I Do Know This"
Pastor Cam Steele

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10: The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the Lord has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

James 5:7-11: Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Matthew 11:2-15: When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: "'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you,

among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Serving in Worship Today

Elders *Charles Zwerk; Dave Miller,
Matt Brown*
Organist *Pam Bernreuter*
Instrumentalist *Nathan Hecht; Alaina Love*
Usher *Paul Kern; Ron Spiekerman*
Altar Guild *Cheryl Dzioba, Diane Karst*
Acolytes *Alexis Balcer, Aubrey Baase*

Wednesday

Elder *Scott Wenzel; Mark Schiefer*
Usher *Ron Spiekerman*

This week at St. Michael's

Today Communion 7:45 a.m.
Bible Class/KidzMin 9 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Mon *Newsletter Deadline*
Bd. of Edu. 6 p.m.
Reflections Bookclub 7 p.m.
Wed . School Christmas Program 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Next Sun. Worship Service 7:45 a.m.
Bible Class 9 a.m.
Communion 10:30 a.m.
Artifact Day 12 p.m.- 2 p.m.

Baptism of Grayson Christopher Leachman, son of Christopher & Kerry (Eskelson) Leachman, will be today during late service. Sponsors: Hailee Eskelson; Christopher Hill; Zachary & Tania Leachman

We welcome Pastor Cam Steele today to St. Michael's. He is our circuit visitor, recently retired from St. Paul, Caro.

Call Accepted: We rejoice that Mr. Rachow has accepted the call to serve as our school principal. May God bless him and St. Michael's with His grace as we begin a new chapter together!

Snowy Weather: In case we have to cancel a church service please check our Facebook page or call the church office (868-4791), Pastor Gillaspie (262-8011), or one of the elders. Also, channel 5 no longer lists church service cancellations. Please check channel 12 or at abc12.com

Items for the January Newsletter are needed to the church office by tomorrow.

Youth Group Event: (7th- 12th grade) Concert to see TobyMac, Crowder, and Jermy Camp, March 12th at 7 p.m., at the Dow Event Center. Cost will be \$40/ticket. Please RSVP with Carrie Hoepfner by tomorrow.

School Children's Christmas Program is this Wednesday at both 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

Christmas Eve and Day: Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 PM; Christmas Eve Communion 7:00 PM; Christmas Day Communion 9:00 AM.

The Christmas envelope in your offering packet will go to Home Purpose.

Installation of officers: Newly elected and appointed officers of the congregation will be installed at the 10:30 worship service on December 28th. *Pastor Mark Aunernhamer* will be installed at the same service as a non-salaried visitation pastor.

The Pew Candles are used for special services, i.e. Easter, Church Anniversary, Christmas, and weddings (upon request). They are temporarily fastened to the pew. They are not firmly attached. For your safety, please do not hang onto them when standing up or sitting down.

Parents of young children: Be sure to check out the pew pack station and try one of our new colorful doodleboard tablets for your child to use during services. Donated by the Outreach Board.

New Officers: Please forward your email addresses and phone numbers to Linda Trombley (ratherbekniting@gmail.com)

Envelope Boxes for 2026 can be picked up in the foyer. Please do not use until Jan. 1st, 2026.

Attendance

Sun. Dec 7 th	464
Christmas Concert	337
Wed. Dec 10 th	71

Weekly Income: 11/30-12/6: \$
Weekly Income includes: Home Purpose Envelopes, Misc. Income, Gifts in Kind, IRA Donations, and Loose Plate.

Other News

The Lutheran Hour airs on WSAM-1400 from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Next Sunday: "Everybody Is Somebody" Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler; God sends His people—the Church—to be His letters to the world, delivering His Word of promise. (Romans 1:7).

Prayers

Health

Karen Bauer; Larry Bauer; Bruce Bierlein; Michelle DeCoe; Don Duperon; Hope Hecht;

Dave Janson; Jim Karst; Barb Kern; Jenna Mathews; Eugene Palmreuter; Norm Petzold; Barb Rupprecht; John Schemm; Bev Schemm; Pauline Scherzer; Rollie Wenzel

Mission

Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Puerto Rico. Both have served as missionaries in this region since 2008, in Panama and the Dominican Republic.

Prayer of the Day

"Almighty God, through John the Baptist You once proclaimed that our salvation was at hand. Grant that we may know Your saving grace and serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever, Amen."