

# Second Sunday in Advent

## December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Order of Service

7:45 Service . . . . . *DSIII (pg. 184)*  
7:45 Hymns . . . . . 344, 343, 387, 349, 816  
10:30 Service . . . . . *Praise & Worship*

### Sermon

“The Winnowing Fork Is At Hand, Be Ready”  
*Rev. Keith Knea*

### Scripture Readings

*Malachi 3:1-7b:* “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. “So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty. “I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the

Lord Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

*Philippians 1:2-11:* Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

*Luke 3:1-20:* In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become

straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.’” John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them. But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

### Serving in Worship Today

Elders . . . . . *Mark Frank, Charles Zwerk;*  
*Dennis Thurston*  
Organist . . . . . *Charles Chaveriat*  
Choirs . . . . . *Praise Band*  
Ushers . . . . . *Alan Kischnick; Jeff Buchinger*  
Altar Guild . . . . *Nancy Bierlein, Ann Thurston*  
Acolytes . . . . . *Kenzie Morley, Alaina Love*

### Wednesday

Elders . . . . . *Lucas Brown*  
Organist . . . . . *Calista Bickel*  
Usher . . . . . *Jeff Buchinger*

*Join us for St. Michael’s Christmas Concert Today, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.*

*Items for January’s Newsletter are needed to the church office by tomorrow, December 9<sup>th</sup>.*

*Blood Drive: Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Park Hall from 1-6 p.m. Making appointments is appreciated. Call 1-866-642-5663.*

*December Wednesday Advent Services will begin at 6:30 P.M. instead of 7 p.m. Our theme this year is “He Shall Be Called.” This week we consider the name “Mighty God.”*

*Mary Martha/LLL Christmas Party will be December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. There will be tickets at the door, tickets will be needed for the door prize drawing.*

*Holy Land Christians will be joining us on December 22<sup>nd</sup> during both services to tell the story of Christians in the Holy Land of Bethlehem, and selling handmade gifts and*

decorations (nativity sets, crosses, ornaments, religious items, etc.) that are made by and benefit Christian families in Bethlehem in the Park Hall after both services.

*Christmas Cards* are available for \$0.50 at the card counter, or boxes of 12 in the church office during office hours for \$6.

*Offering Envelopes for 2025* can be found on the table in the foyer. Let the church office know if you have any questions about your envelopes. *Please DO NOT USE until JAN. 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*Advent Devotionals:* Lutheran Laymen's League at St Michael's has blessed us with advent devotionals you can do with your family. Perhaps pick up an advent wreath or get four candles to use in your home, and please take this time especially to use the supplied Advent devotions for your families daily devotions.

*RaiseRight Gift Cards:* It's that time of year again where you can simplify your gift-giving needs by purchasing gift cards through RaiseRight. We will be offering sales of select cards/order forms in the church foyer between services beginning December 1st-December 22nd. Orders may also be made by going online to Raiseright.com or by stopping by the school office during school hours. Call Cheryl (989)882-5621 or Lavonne (989)863-0081 if you would like to assist or if you have any questions.

Attendance

Thanksgiving Eve ..... 178  
 Thanksgiving Day ..... 114

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> ..... 404  
 Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> ..... 104

Weekly Income for 11/24-11/30: \$35,272.12  
*Weekly Income includes: Home Purpose Envelopes, Miscellaneous Income, Gifts in Kind, IRA Donations, and Loose Plate.*

This week at St. Michael's

Today. .... Communion 7:45 a.m.  
                                   *Bible Class/KidzMin 9 a.m.*  
                                   Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.  
                                   *Church Christmas Concert 3 p.m.*  
 Mon ..... Newsletter Deadline  
 Tue ..... *Blood Drive 1-6 p.m.*  
                                   Elders 7 p.m.  
                                   *Adult Choir 7 p.m.*  
 Wed. .... Advent Worship Service 6:30 p.m.  
 Next Sun ..... *Worship Service 7:45 a.m.*  
                                   Bible Class/KidzMin 9 a.m.  
                                   *Communion 10:30 a.m.*

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 Email ..... [church@stmichaelsrichville.org](mailto:church@stmichaelsrichville.org)  
 School Office ..... 989-868-4809  
 Child Care ..... 989-868-3830

Other News

*The Lutheran Hour* airs on WSAM-1400 from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Next Sunday: "Sorrow Welcomed Here", *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler*; The church welcomes people, but does it also welcome their problems? Dr. Michael Zeigler says the church should be a place that makes room for both joy and sorrow. (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

# PRAYERS

Health

*Betty Auernhamer, Kurt Howell, Jim Karst, Rick Doud, Jim Doud, Norm Petzold, Don Duperon, Devin Heinlein, Jameson Doud, Courtney Callahan, Craig Compton, Dennis Richards, Bob Heinlein, Larry Putman*

Sympathy

*Family of Charles Weber*  
 who was called home on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>

Mission

*Barbara Rebentisch* serves the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Taiwan, based in Chiayi. In this role, she translates and interprets between Mandarin and English to facilitate the communication of the Gospel in the Chinese-speaking world.

Prayer of the Day

“Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.”



