

St. Michael Lutheran Church

News & Events

January 4, 2019

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK: January 7, Kim Thompson; January 11, Parker Monteith. We rejoice that you are living and serving among us in faith and discipleship!

THERE IS NO SUNDAY LUNCH SUNDAY! The next Sunday Lunch will be Sunday, January 20, Every Member Birthday Party!

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY AT 4:00 PM FOR OUR EPIPHANY PARTY AND COVERED DISH SUPPER: Join us for a telling of the Epiphany Story, Crafts, Cookie Baking, and Star Hunting! All ages are welcome to participate! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and begin activities at 4:00pm. Covered Dish Supper at 6:00pm! *Please bring a prepared cover dish item that falls in the letter of your last name.*

A-F: Dessert (yummy dessert or fruit)

G-L: Side dish (vegetable dish, salad, or chips)

M-Z: Main dish (soup, sandwiches, a meat, or casserole)

NEW CREATION WORSHIP RESUMES THIS WEEK! We gather at 6:00 pm. All are welcome! Please feel free to enter even if you arrive after we begin.

OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS REACH TO ENFOLD IRENE SODERBLOM and her family at the death of her sister Velma on Thursday, January 3. "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE!" says the Lord.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE LIGHT: The Peace Light, symbolic of the Light of Christ especially evident at Christmas, is meant to promote peace, harmony and unity among the people of the world regardless of race, ethnicity or creed. The Peace Light will be at St. Michael's from January 6-13 in the Gathering Area. You may bring an oil lantern, or a candle contained within a lantern, to receive and transport the light for your family and friends. We suggest lighting the pilot light of your water heater or fireplace to keep the light burning forever in your home. Because this is meant to be a continuous flame, we strongly encourage you not to extinguish the light and relight it.

THE EPIPHANY SEASON IS GOD'S "SHOW & TELL" through which God continues showing us and telling us "*Who Jesus Is*" and inviting us to deeper understanding of who Jesus is for us. The visit of the Magi we celebrate reminds us that the gift of Jesus is for all nations, and makes outsiders to become insiders. The rising of this new star still calls us and our congregation to follow.

WE WILL SOON BE PREPARING OUR 2019 YEARBOOK AND DIRECTORY. PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION through the church office if there are changes in your address, telephone number, employment or school. Thanks!

C&B 2019 GIVING ENVELOPES are available in the Gathering Area. Each is labelled, and they are placed in alphabetical order. If you cannot find yours, please contact the Church Office. If you do not plan to use yours please let us know.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, January 6 Epiphany Day Celebrations 8:30 & 11:00 am
Epiphany Party & Covered Dish Supper 4:00 pm
January 11-13 Council Planning Retreat at Lutheridge

LUTHER ROAD with “Church Without Walls” June 10 through 14
Vacation Bible School – June 24-28, 2019

YOU ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 16 to new terms on our Congregation Council Liza Anne Cook and Devin Kendrick. *They are being installed this Sunday.* Reid Schultz has been appointed as the Youth Representative this year. Please pray for them and for our entire Council as they prepare to take up their ministry of servant leadership throughout 2019. Please express your personal thanks to Ronney Dixon and Mike Hutchinson who are completing terms of long and faithful service, as well as to Anna Rush Schultz, who has served as Youth representative for three years. We are grateful to our Council members for their self-less commitment to this life-giving ministry of providing spiritual vision, direction and oversight to our life together. ***Your ministry blesses us, that we may become a blessing! We thank you, and we thank God for you!***

THE BERYL HILLER CIRCLE WILL MEET this Tuesday, January 8th at 10:00 am in the Green Room. Melanie Waites has the program; Tonjia Groblewski will host.

THE JOHNSIE RICHARDSON CIRCLE WILL meet Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00 PM at the home of Suzie Smith. Luci Floyd has the program. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us.

BACKPACK BUDDIES IS NOW PACKING 24 BAGS EACH WEEK in January. Your contributions to this ministry make a BIG difference for children at risk for hunger in our own community. We are grateful for your abundant generosity and can always use all supplies (please see Sunday’s insert). This ministry partners with local elementary schools to “Serve Christ in the World.”

WILD WOMEN - February 8-10th, 2019. We are excited to have 27 women from our congregation attend the annual Wild Women retreat at Lutheridge! If you are attending and have not paid, please get a check in to the church office for \$223 by January 15th. Check your email for more details from Liza Cook!

NURSERY UPDATE: The wheels are in motion for our nursery makeover. Please stop by to see our current space that has been designated for our Little Lutherans. We are so excited to make it over! A board has been set up in the Gathering Area with items that are needed. We are asking for a monetary contribution towards our purchases. You can designate "Nursery Makeover" on your check or envelope. Gift cards are also welcome. There will also be a sign up sheet if you are interested in volunteering your time. With help from our village, the Little Lutherans will love their new space! We thank Dianne Locotosh for gifting her Thrivent "Love One Another" funds as seed money for this effort.

KATHY RICHARDSON is still hospitalized in Augusta as her medical team helps her deal with a series of complications following her kidney transplant. Rick is recovering well and visits her every day. He is at the home of their son and his wife in North Augusta. Because of her suppressed immune system Kathy and Rick are not able to receive outside visitors at this time. They express deep gratitude for receiving mail at 5050 Fieldcrest Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841. Please enfold them in your prayers for continued healing.

OUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL WILL GATHER AT LUTHERIDGE January 11 through 13 for their annual planning retreat. Please be in prayer for them, that God will form them into a community of servant leaders and enable them to see and claim God's Vision for our life and ministry together throughout 2019.

ALL 2018 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE NOW DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE! Please be diligent in celebrating the ministries we have accomplished effectively, and in challenging us to the ministries we have yet to engage.

THE EVERY MEMBER BIRTHDAY PARTY WILL BE SUNDAY, JANUARY 20! Sunday Lunch will be provided. **YOU PROVIDE** the Birthday Cakes!!! Think about your favorite cake and the month that is precious to you and sign up to bake a cake! Happy Birthday to EVERYONE !!!

THE BIRTHDAY CAKE SIGN-UP IS POSTED IN THE GATHERING AREA!

SPIRIT MATTERS resumes meeting monthly in 2019. We plan to gather on Thursday evenings. The dates we have planned are as follows: January 24; February 21; March 21; April 11; May 9; May 30. This group focuses on spiritual nurture in a group setting, "beholding the One who beholds us in love." Contact Maureen Nelson or Pastor Robert for more information.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE? The 2018 Flower Chart is available on the blue kiosk in the Gathering Area. There is an abundance of available spots for Sunday flowers. Please prayerfully consider signing for one of these open Sundays. We have an arrangement with Embassy Flowers to provide flowers for the worship space. Through Embassy Flowers, the cost for both floral arrangements is \$110. Several families are welcome and encouraged to sign up together for flowers on an open Sunday and share the cost. Although we have an arrangement with Embassy Flowers, you are not obliged to use Embassy Flowers, and can make other arrangements of your own. If you do not wish to use Embassy Flowers, please let Stacey Anders know so she can contact them.

SAINTS ALIVE WILL KICK OFF THE 2019 SEASON ON WEDNESDAY, January 23, 2019 with a luncheon at 12:15 pm in the social hall. Our lunch will be soups, sandwiches, and salads. A sign-up list will be posted in the Gathering area. Mr. Ed Hunt will be providing a musical program for us to enjoy. We ask each of you to please bring canned soups for our United Ministries mission. Please mark the 23rd on your calendar and join us for our first luncheon of the new year.

OUR WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP will resume meeting on January 9 and will begin learning from the book of Ruth. Pastor Robert suggests you read all four chapters (*four pages!*) of the book before this Wednesday. But – whether you read ahead or not -- **ALL** are welcome to join us at 10:30 am in the "Green Room" for fellowship and faith-nurturing conversation. ***There is always room at the table! Come and bring a friend!***

YOUTH MINISTRY

CRAWL Youth Group (Birth - 3 YEARS & Parents)

Meeting Sunday

Young Youth (K4 – 5th Grade) & LCY (6th – 12th Grade)

Join us THIS SUNDAY, January 6th for the

Epiphany Party at 4:00 PM!

Y'ALL: Young Adults Living Lutheran

**Join us January 9th at St. Michael in the Green Room, 6:00 - 8:00.
Beginning the new year with team building/small group activities.**

Dinner and Childcare provided weekly!!!

See Heather Hester for details and check out our **FACEBOOK** page.

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Thirsty Thursdays

COME. FELLOWSHIP. BE FED.

Do you consider yourself a “Young Adult”?

Are you looking for an intentional faith group & good friends?

Do you need a break from your regular weekly routine?

Do you want a place where you can stay connected to Jesus, have a support network within the church, & have meaningful conversation about faith & life in a casual social setting?

Then **JOIN US** for *Thirsty Thursdays*

Join us again in January!

We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

See Emily Bugay or check out our page on **FACEBOOK** for info.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

A "FAITH 5" VERSE

"When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy."

Matthew 2:9-10

Monday, January 7

12- Step Group 7:30 pm

Tuesday, January 8

Beryl Hiller Circle 10:00 am

Worship & Music Team 6:30 pm

AA 7:00 pm

Johnsie Richardson Circle 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 9

Bible Study 10:30 am

Y-ALL 6:00 pm

New Creation Worship 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Thursday, January 10

Breakfast Together 8:30 am

Nursing Mothers' Support Group 12:00 pm

AA 7:00 pm

Al-Anon 8:00 pm

Friday, January 11

Council Retreat at Lutheridge

Saturday, January 12

Council Retreat at Lutheridge

Sunday, January 13 – Baptism of Our Lord

Holy Communion Service 8:30 am

CRAWL 9:30 am

Faith Formation 9:30 am

Holy Communion Service 11:00 am

NO Sunday Lunch

Council Retreat Ends 12:30 pm

LCY Progressive Dinner

Lessons for January 13, 2019

The Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22