



St. Michael's  
Episcopal Church  
COLORADO SPRINGS

# The Archangel

Newsletter  
& Events

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN WITHIN AND BEYOND OUR WALLS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023



*Thanksgiving & Christmas  
at St. Michael's*

## FROM THE RECTOR



Dear People of God,

During this season of abundance, the table is set but something might be missing. Life can seem so full and empty at the same time. Our calendars are filled with obligations, there aren't enough hours in the day, and the pressure can be overwhelming at times. The table is set, but the empty plate illuminates all the things out of our control. The seduction of scarcity reminds us something is missing. But what if the empty plate in our life calls us to hope, accept, and love like Jesus loved?

With the *most wonderful time* of the year upon us, I'm mindful of the competing forces many of us will experience this Thanksgiving and Christmas. For some of us there will be celebrations, merriment, and joyfulness - while others will experience worry, anxiety, and sorrow - but for many I anticipate there will be a holy cocktail of numerous competing emotions. And then ... before we know it, January will be here, we'll pack up the decorations, and we'll do it all over again next year.

However, what if this Thanksgiving and Christmas we set an extra empty plate and load up the plate with all the things we could hope for and all the things we need to accept? Before we know it, our plates would be filled with the imperfect pieces of our life, the things that break our hearts, and it would require us to live a little more like Jesus. In other words, how can we use this time to be honest with God and ourself, instead of our faith being an afterthought or side dish?

As followers of Christ, we live out our faith through outward and visible signs as well as inward and invisible practices. The exterior and interior things we do are a principle hallmark of our Christian journey. In the Bible we encounter story after story of the outward and inward spiritual practices of Jesus. From Jesus performing miracles in front of curious onlookers to retreating to a secluded place to pray, Jesus' ministry mirrored this outward and inward approach. The power of this approach is evident in the ways that Jesus transformed the disciples' empty plates.

As we experience the fullness of the empty plates in our lives in the coming months, I'm looking forward to seeing how we can be *Led by the Spirit*, fill some empty plates, and feast on the bounty of God's love in our lives.

Merry Thanksgiving and Happy Christmas!

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rev. Matt Holcombe

## Staff Announcement



The Rev. Matt Holcombe is delighted to share the wonderful news that The Rev. Vicki Hesse will be St. Michael's new full-time Associate Rector. Vicki joined the St. Michael's staff in May 2023 as our Interim Associate Rector and has been a valuable asset to our community. She has numerous gifts

and has proven herself to be a faithful and gifted pastor, preacher, and teacher. As our full-time Associate Rector, Vicki will be supporting various aspects of ministry with a specific emphasis on Worship and our growing Pastoral Care and Outreach Ministries. Please join me in congratulating Vicki the next time you see her!

## Meet a Friend, Greet a Friend

We continue to be blessed with a steady stream of visitors on a regular basis. Next time you see an unfamiliar face, please introduce yourself and then greet the familiar faces you see on a regular basis.

## 2024 Annual Meeting

**February 4, 2024**

Save the date for our next Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 4, 9:15 - 10:10 AM. Our Annual Meeting is an opportunity to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the coming one. In addition to reviewing our 2023 expenses and 2024 budget, we will be electing three new Vestry Members and one new Junior Warden. In the January & February Archangel, we will have short bios for each of the vestry candidates so you can get to know those on the ballot.

**November & December Worship Schedule**

**8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: In-person**

**9:15 AM: Education for All Ages (Various Spaces)**

**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist: In-person & Online with Choir & Children's Chapel**

*Nursery Care Available for Children 5 and under on Sundays, 7:45 AM - 12:00 PM*

*(Join us for Coffee Hour and Fellowship after each Sunday service)*

November 1	Wednesday, All Saints Day Liturgy	12:00 PM *		
November 5	Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost	8:00 AM	10:30 AM *	* Livestreamed Services
November 12	Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost	8:00 AM	10:30 AM * ◇	◇ ASL Interpreter Services
November 19	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost	8:00 AM	10:30 AM *	
November 26	Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost	8:00 AM	10:30 AM *	
December 3	First Sunday of Advent	8:00 AM	10:30 AM *	
December 10	Second Sunday of Advent	8:00 AM	10:30 AM *	
December 14	Thursday, Blue Christmas Service	7:00 PM *		
December 17	Third Sunday of Advent	8:00 AM	10:30 AM * ◇	
December 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent	10:00 AM *		
December 24	Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	7:00 PM *	11:00 PM
December 25	Christmas Day	10:00 AM *		
December 31	A Service for a New Year	10:00 AM *		



**Children & Youth Sunday**

**Sunday, November 5**

**8:00 & 10:30 AM Services**

Children and youth will be lay readers, acolytes, ushers, greeters, and chalice bearers; and our Cherub Choir will be singing. Our guest preacher for both services will be Owen Copps, Dir. of Children, Youth, & Young Adult Ministries.



**Blue Christmas**

**Thursday, December 14**

**7:00 PM**

Christmas can be a difficult season for many. If you are feeling loss or hurt, or are estranged from the general feelings of joy and happiness during this time of year, you are invited to join us in-person or online for our Blue Christmas Service with music and Holy Eucharist.

**Wednesday Healing Service**

**12:00 PM, Chapel**

A 30-minute Healing Service with Holy Eucharist and anointing with Holy Oil. All are welcome!

**Weekday Online Services**

**Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00 PM Compline**

**Friday, 7:30 PM Evening Prayer**

Links to join are in the Friday Weekly eNews or you can find the links online: [www.stmikeschurch.com/worship-online](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/worship-online)



With colder temperatures and unpredictable weather in the forecast, please check your email on questionable Sunday mornings. For youth and children, Owen will also use email to update families about changes to youth group, Sunday School, or special events planned.

# SUNDAY FORUM

Our Sunday Forum Series continues with our clergy, special guests, and leaders from our parish. The Sunday Forum occurs from 9:15 - 10:10 AM in the main church sanctuary. Join us in-person or online for these faith based, formative conversations.

## November 5

### A Child-like Faith

Owen Copps & Children Panel

Join Owen and a few of our children for a spirit-led conversation about God and our faith journey. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear and support the youngest voices in our community.

## November 12

### Outreach, Beyond Our Walls

Outreach Committee

It's been a busy year for Outreach at St. Michael's. Join our Outreach Chair, Susan Futey, and members of our Outreach Committee for important impact updates from our partners in ministry.

## November 19

### Images of the Spirit

The Rev. Vicki Hesse

When you think about the Holy Spirit or the Spirit of God, what images come to mind? Join Rev. Vicki as she explores images of the Spirit found in *The Saint John's Bible*.

## November 26

### Adopt-a-Nativity

The Rev. Matt Holcombe

Experience Advent in a new way by loaning an extra nativity scene (or creche) and borrowing someone else's nativity scene. More details in the Weekly eNews.

## December 3

### Advent Festival

St. Michael's Staff & Volunteers

Join us for our annual intergenerational Advent Festival as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child. Make an Advent wreath, an ornament, and come discover something new!

## December 10

### A "Sense-ational" Journey to Bethlehem

The clergy and staff have prepared a new experience for you to journey to Bethlehem using all five of your senses. Come see, taste, smell, touch, and hear something new this Advent Season. All are welcome for this intergenerational event.

## Annual Christmas Pageant

### December 17, 10:30 AM Service

Join us for St. Michael's annual Christmas pageant during the 10:30 AM Service on December 17. Don't miss your chance to hear the greatest story ever told... narrated and performed by the children of our community! (There will be no Children or Adult Education this day. See complete details under "Children, Youth & Families.")





## CHRISTMAS LIGHT FESTIVAL

St. Michael's Christmas Light Festival is back for its fourth year as we spread the light of Christ brighter than ever. Invite your friends and neighbors for an immersive walk-through light display and don't forget to bundle up. This year we will introduce new light displays, and as usual we have a few surprises up our sleeve for you to enjoy.

To help set up lights on select days in November, or to volunteer for the event, go to [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup). Last year we welcomed over 3,000 people to St. Michael's to see the lights, and we anticipate even more this year! We will have a volunteer dinner and preview on Thursday, December 7 at 5:00 PM. It takes many volunteers to make this event the success it is, so thanks in advance for being a part!

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ADMISSION: \$5 per family  
+ a canned good per person or a new children's toy.

December 8 & 9, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

December 15 & 16, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

December 22 & 23, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

(Don't forget to bring your letter to Santa!)

Volunteers needed to hang lights and work during the Light Festival at check-in table, concessions, parking lot, and more.

[www.stmikeschurch.com/lights](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/lights)

We will have a special ADA & Sensory Friendly Night on Thursday, December 14 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM.

## Christmas Eve Services

### 10:00 AM Advent 4 & Holy Eucharist \*

The Advent 4 Service with Holy Eucharist and two hymns.

### 4:00 PM Family Service

Our family-friendly Christmas Eve Service will feature music, brass, the Cherub Choir, a kid-friendly sermon, and Holy Eucharist. Nursery care will be available 3:30 - 5:30 PM.

### 7:00 PM Traditional Service \*

St. Michael's traditional Christmas Eve service will feature special music, brass, the Seraphim Choir, a candlelit singing of Silent Night, and Holy Eucharist.

### 11:00 PM Midnight Service

Join us for this reflective service with special music, a candlelit singing of Silent Night, Holy Eucharist, and a little silence as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. *This service will also have hypoallergenic incense.*

## Christmas Services

### Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 25

### 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist \*

Celebrate with us on Christmas Day in-person or online with Christmas Hymns and Holy Eucharist.

### First Sunday after Christmas A Service For A New Year

Sunday, December 31, 10:00 AM \*

Featuring *The Saint John's Bible*

As we reflect on the past year and anticipate the year to come, join us for a meditative service of poignant readings, hope-filled prayer and music.

\* Livestreamed Services are available on YouTube and Facebook. Go to [www.stmikeschurch.com](http://www.stmikeschurch.com) for quick links to view.

## Well Reflection

By Stacy Cowell, Well Imagining Team Member



*"Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God; but only he who sees, takes off his shoes, the rest sit round it and pluck blackberries." ~Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

There are revelations waiting to be found in the cathedrals of creation. In unique ways, we can encounter God there and learn more deeply of our interconnectedness with nature and all of humanity. As we intentionally seek experiences in the natural world, our souls are nurtured by the Spirit through the seasons. In response, a new motivation grows within us to demonstrate lovingkindness for creation and forge a deeper connection between what we believe and what we practice. Creation can awaken our senses, comfort our weary spirits and help us to embody our roles as stewards and co-creators. Though it may be tempting to burrow under blankets as the colder weather arrives, I encourage you to seek God in the beauty of the outdoors. Holy ground awaits you.



## Walking to Bethlehem Advent Retreat

**December 9, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM**

Come with us on an imaginary, contemplative, and metaphorical journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. Along the way, we will pray, meditate, journal, and walk the labyrinth. We will reflect on how we prepare, what we bring, what we leave behind, with whom we walk, how we find our way again when lost, and ultimately discover that our arrival at the birthplace of Jesus is not the conclusion but the beginning of our spiritual journey. Our hope is that this Advent retreat will provide a metaphor for you to carry through Advent and into your spiritual journey beyond. Participants are limited to 20, and spaces will fill quickly, so register at [stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://stmikeschurch.com/signup). Lunch will be provided, and there is a \$20 registration fee to cover expenses. Email Margie Arms at [margaretarms@gmail.com](mailto:margaretarms@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Ongoing Offerings ...

The Well provides meditative, mindful and creative environments for anyone to explore and deepen their spiritual life, in person or virtually. Some ongoing offerings are Lectio Divina and Contemplative Prayer.

**Lectio Divina** is a contemplative way of reading the Bible that dates back to the early centuries of the Christian Church and was established as a monastic practice for praying the scriptures. Lectio Divina leads one deeper into God's word by slowing down and allowing scripture to speak in new ways. Lectio Divina meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 10:00 - 11:30 AM. Contact Margie Arms at [margaretarms@gmail.com](mailto:margaretarms@gmail.com) for more information.

**Contemplative Prayer** is an intimate and meditative form of praying that nourishes the soul. This group currently meets virtually every Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 PM, but it may become a hybrid group based on interest. Contact Guy Theriot at [guy.theriot@gmail.com](mailto:guy.theriot@gmail.com) for more information.



## Donation Drives & Opportunities to Volunteer



### Thanksgiving Baskets & Gift Cards November 5 - 12

The Outreach Committee is asking for your support in providing Thanksgiving meals, groceries, and gift cards for our hungry neighbors who otherwise won't be able to enjoy this traditional holiday meal. In the Gathering Space, please look for the RED shopping bags which include a recommended list of food items needed. Please return all donations to the church November 5-12 (on Sundays or Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM).

### Care and Share Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity Forming

Care and Share's mission is to "provide food, partnering opportunities, and education to fight hunger and food insecurity in Southern Colorado communities." St. Michael's has donated \$2,500 in 2023, thus providing 12,500 meals completely free of charge. We are interested in getting a St. Mike's group together to volunteer directly at Care & Share in support of one of their programs, such as their "Sunny Side Market" food pantry network, their "Mobile Market" food pantry on wheels, or their "Cooking Matters" classes for creating healthy, affordable meals. Interested? Contact Justin Morrill at 719-590-1615 or [justin\\_morrill@msn.com](mailto:justin_morrill@msn.com).

### Light Festival Collection December 8-23

Canned food and toys collected will benefit our partners in the community. Donations can be dropped off in the Parish Hall on Sundays or during regular office hours.

### CEC Snack Ministry 2024 Volunteers Needed

The Child Enrichment Center (CEC) is a part of the Colorado House transitional housing facility through Partners in Housing (PIH). Children of homeless families attend the CEC while their parents receive services, take classes, or seek employment. Each St. Michael's Snack Ministry volunteer is scheduled to either buy and deliver healthy snacks or donate money to buy snacks for these children one or two weeks of the year. This ministry is important, easy, and rewarding; and it needs you! For more information or to join for 2024, please contact Judy Morrill at 719-650-0245 or [j\\_l\\_morrill@msn.com](mailto:j_l_morrill@msn.com).

### Habitat for Humanity Build December 16, AM & PM Shifts

This Interfaith Build brings together volunteers from a variety of different backgrounds, beliefs, and faiths to work together in unity to build affordable homes. St. Mike's volunteers will be paired with a team from a different belief tradition to work, share lunch, and enjoy time together. No experience is necessary, and there are two shifts available from which to choose: 8:30 - 12:00 and 12:45 - 4:30. To learn more about this event or to register, visit [stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://stmikeschurch.com/signup).

### Interfaith Hospitality Network 2024 Volunteer Opportunity Forming

The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) consists of a dozen parishes in Colorado Springs that provide temporary short-term housing for families. Host parishes provide meals, a safe and warm environment for guests to sleep, and support for up to four families for one or two weeks a year. St. Mike's has been part of the IHN consortium for nearly two decades, and we are looking for new volunteers to help in 2024. Contact Susan Futey for more information and check the Weekly eNews for opportunities to get involved. It takes a village!

# MUSIC

## Fall Orchestra Concert

### "As Foretold"

**November 18, 5:00 PM**

Back by popular demand, the Royal Gorge Philharmonic returns to St. Michael's on Saturday, November 18 for an encore performance of "As Foretold", an Oratorio for Chorus, Orchestra, Organ and Soloists based on historical texts and scriptures prophesying the birth of Jesus Christ. The prophecies reference the Old Testament, New Testament, Book of Mormon and the Dead Sea Scrolls. Composer and Conductor, Gerald Willis, leads the Royal Gorge Philharmonic Chorus, and the performance will include as special guests the Saint Michael's Seraphim Choir and the United States Air Force Academy Cadet Choir. A \$15 per ticket donation is requested. Go to [stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://stmikeschurch.com/signup) to reserve your spot.



## Shine Bright! *Free Christmas Show*

**December 23, 6:30 PM**

Acclaimed Creative Arts Festival guest pianist, J. Chang-Tablada, will be presenting his Christmas show, "Shine Bright!" at St. Michael's on the closing day of our Light Festival, Saturday, December 23. Come out for a family friendly evening of holiday cheer as J. charms us with his piano-vocal stylings and gets us into the spirit of the season! Concert is free and open to the public, so come and bring a friend!

## Cherub Choir

**November 5 & Christmas Eve**

Our Cherub Choir will be singing as a part of Children & Youth Sunday at the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, November 5 as well as on Christmas Eve at the 4:00 PM Family Service.

## Handbell Choir Playing Sunday, December 10

The Handbell Choir will be playing at both services on the Second Sunday in Advent, December 10. We are grateful to this group for their commitment to this ministry and performing on a regular basis this year. If you are interested in learning more or joining this group, please contact Mary Dee Weigel at [jmandmdweigel@aol.com](mailto:jmandmdweigel@aol.com).



## Seraphim Choir

The Seraphim Choir (St. Michael's Adult Choir) leads the hymns and sings the Offertory anthem every Sunday at the 10:30 AM service, September through May. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 PM and Sundays mornings from 9:45 - 10:15 AM. No audition is required to join...simply contact Amalia at [amalia@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:amalia@stmikeschurch.com).

## Christmas Brass & Poinsettias

Help fill our space with the addition of beautiful brass music on Christmas Eve at the 4:00 and 7:00 PM services. You can make a donation for poinsettias or music in thanksgiving for or in memory of a loved one. See the insert in this Archangel for more information or visit [stmikeschurch.org/signup](http://stmikeschurch.org/signup). Donation forms due Dec. 13.





## Young Adult Theology on Tap November 10 & December 8 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Theology on Tap continues for our young adults (20s and 30s) at Goat Patch Brewing on the second Friday of the month. Michaela Eskew will facilitate the November session centered around "The Problem of Evil," and Mason Mennenga will facilitate the December session on "Process Theology." Join for opportunities to share, learn, and spend time with young adults from around Colorado Springs!

## 40s & 50s Fellowship Group November 10 6:00 PM



Those in their 40s and 50s are invited to join for an evening of fun at Main Event (formerly The Summit) at 1180 Interquest Parkway. Bowling will be the primary activity on the agenda, but there is also a full arcade to enjoy as well as a full restaurant and sports bar. RSVP for planning purposes at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup).

## People Who Read 3rd Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 PM

People Who Read meets on the third Wednesday of each month to discuss books, selected by group members. A rotating host provides the meeting space and some beverages, and members bring shareable snacks and book discussion questions. All are welcome! Email Jennie Wandfluh at [jennie@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:jennie@stmikeschurch.com) or Linda Kean at [linda@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:linda@stmikeschurch.com) for more information.

November 15 in the Chapel (also on zoom):  
*West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

December 13 location TBD: Christmas Book Exchange Party (Please bring a wrapped book to give away - new or used in good condition.)

## Thanksgiving Day Dinner Thursday, November 23 2:00 PM



Will you be alone for Thanksgiving or unable to travel? You are invited to celebrate Thanksgiving with your St. Michael's family. We will have a festive Thanksgiving Meal at 2:00 PM on Thanksgiving Day. Please RSVP and sign up to bring a dish to share with others on the website at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup). Need a ride? Invite a friend to drive you and join us! Email Linda at [linda@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:linda@stmikeschurch.com) with any questions.

## Elf The Musical December 6, 7:00 PM

St. Mike's has purchased 26 tickets for Elf the Musical at the Fine Arts Center at Colorado College for Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 PM. This popular holiday classic well known the world over is sure to make everyone embrace their inner elf, so join for a little holiday cheer. Tickets are \$30 each and must be paid for within seven days of registering online at [stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://stmikeschurch.com/signup). Contact Amalia at [amalia@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:amalia@stmikeschurch.com) with any questions.



## S.M.A.S.H. (60+ Fellowship)

After a busy few months of events, the St. Michael's Active Senior Happenings (SMASH) group is taking the months of November and December off. Look for more fun events to come in the New Year!

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

## Children & Youth Sunday Sunday, November 5

Children and Youth Sunday is an opportunity for St. Michael's to spotlight the young people in our community. On this special day, children and youth will be serving in all of the worship roles, acolytes, ushers, greeters, musicians and more! Our Cherub Choir will be singing at 10:30 AM worship, and make sure to join us for the forum on this day when a group of 4th and 5th graders will give us a window into what it means to have "Child-like Faith."



## Quest Diocesan Youth Retreat November 10 – 12

St. Michael's middle and high schoolers are invited to join with their peers from all over Colorado at LaForet Camp & Retreat Center for a weekend at Quest. Quest is a youth-planned diocesan retreat, and this year's theme is "Call." Visit [stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://stmikeschurch.com/signup) for more info about this exciting opportunity to make new friends from around Colorado, recharge, and engage in meaningful conversations... and Owen will be there as well!

## Parenting Group November 12, 9:15 - 10:10 AM

The Parenting Group provides a way for parents to be together, share experiences, and have conversations about what being a parent looks like today, free of judgement or shame.

*Note: The November 12 date for this meeting is a change from a previous date.*

## College Students Care Packages Send Updated Addresses!

It's almost that time of year! Our middle and high school youth groups will be packing finals care packages for our college students on Wednesday, November 15. Please email Owen at [owen@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:owen@stmikeschurch.com) with your college student's updated mailing address. We can't wait to send them a care package!

## Children, Youth, and Family Skyzone Outing

**Sunday, November 19, 12:30 – 2:00 PM**

From foam pits, to trampoline basketball, to a dodgeball arena, Skyzone trampoline park has it all! Children, Youth, and their families are invited to come bounce, jump, and have a blast with their St. Michael's community on November 19. Save your spot at [stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://stmikeschurch.com/signup).

## Family Sunday School November 19, 9:15 - 10:00 AM

Parents are invited to accompany their children to Sunday School once a month. This is an intentional time for children and parents to learn, explore, and play together while getting to hear what family members think about different faith topics. Families with children Pre-K - 12th grade are invited to join.

## BeYou! November 19 & December 17 6:00 - 8:00 PM

St. Michael's Middle & High schoolers are invited to join with youth from affirming churches from all over Colorado Springs at First Lutheran Church (1515 N Cascade Ave) for a time of food, fellowship, fun, and faith formation. You are loved, you belong, so BeYou!



## St. Michael's Youth Council

December 3, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Apply Now!

Our youth council is a team of high school aged servant leaders that engage in service opportunities, plan retreats, and provide vision for our youth programs. All high schoolers are invited to join! Fill out the Youth Council Application at [stmikeschurch.com/ycapp](http://stmikeschurch.com/ycapp) and become part of the team!



## Youth Group Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 6

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Middle & High Schoolers are invited to come celebrate the Christmas season together! We will gather for a Christmas feast and Christmas games, activities, and crafts. Make sure to wear your best Christmas sweater! Let us know your coming by signing up at [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup).



## Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 17, 10:30 AM

Rehearsal Dates & Interest Form

It's almost the most wonderful time of the year! We want your children to help us tell the greatest story ever told. Families, please visit [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup) to view the Pageant Interest Form to give us a sense of how many participants we will have and what roles they would like. Sunday rehearsals will be complete with lunch and interactive crafts and activities, making even the rehearsals a true Christmas experience!

### 2023 Pageant Schedule

Rehearsal #1: Sunday, December 3: 12:00 - 2:00 PM

Rehearsal #2: Sunday, December 10: 12:00 - 2:00 PM

Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, December 16: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Pageant Day: Sunday, December 17 - Arrive at 9:00 AM.

Pageant during 10:30 AM Service

## Youth Ski Trip

**Save the Date! January 27 - 28, 2024**

The youth ski trip is right around the corner! Our youth will be having another awesome weekend at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp & Monarch Ski Resort. Middle and High School families, mark this date on your calendars!

Did you know you can access Mental Health resources & recommendations by visiting: [www.stmikeschurch.com/mentalhealth](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/mentalhealth)  
**Need a referral or help?** Contact one of our clergy or Owen Copps, Director of Children, Youth, & Young Adult Ministries.

## NEWCOMERS

### Newcomer Classes

**November 19: St. Michael's & Building Tour**

**December 17: Get Connected & Involved**



Our three rotating Newcomer Classes "Let's Get Connected" continue in November and December. These are stand-alone classes that you can take in any order. You can attend all of

them or just those you wish. These classes are designed for newcomers, but ALL are welcome to join. No sign up or registration required. Questions? Email Linda Kean, [linda@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:linda@stmikeschurch.com).

### New Member Dinner

**Friday, November 12**

All new members of St. Michael's who have joined in late 2022 or in 2023, are invited to a special new member dinner at the home of The Rev. Matt & Alicia Holcombe, on Sunday, November 12 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. Contact our Newcomer Coordinator, Linda Kean, at [linda@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:linda@stmikeschurch.com) with any questions. Please register at [stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://stmikeschurch.com/signup) and include any dietary restrictions in the comments. Thank you!

### Welcome New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following people to the St. Michael's family. In the coming weeks and months introduce yourself and get to know the newest members of our community.

Sharon Bayless

Dean and Kelly Belvis

Hilary Dussing

Karon Guilford and Jenny Thielke

A.K. & Vicky Harrod

Steve and Debbie Leisenring

Kevin and Margaret McMullan

Ginger Noble & Keira (Daughter)

Virginia Russell

Charles and Robin Schwartz

Michael and Sammie Van Winkle

John and Diane Wilhite

## PASTORAL CARE

"Wherever people love each other and are true to each other and take risks for each other, God is with them and they are doing God's will." – Frederick Buechner

**Why Pastoral Care?** Because when we love each other, are true to each other, take risks for each other, care for one another, we are sharing Christ within and beyond our walls. Because God is calling us to serve. Clergy and laity share responsibility for pastoral care at St. Michael's. We are a caring community of people ready to reach out to one another in times of adversity, to share in gratitude in times of blessings and to encourage one another as we grow as the body of Christ.

We provide care through myriad ways: Care Teams, one-on-one spiritual care visits, home communion, prayer offerings, Caregivers Support group, Widows Group, Daughters of the King, mental health & suicide prevention counseling and referrals, bereavement literature after a death, Rite of Reconciliation, and meal deliveries ... all walking beside one another during difficult times. Our clergy are available for prayer and pastoral care for all sorts of situations. People who are experiencing a crisis, have been admitted to the hospital, or just need some Christian counsel and direction, are always welcome to call or email and make arrangements to visit with a priest.

If you are feeling called to serve as a caregiver or need to receive care, please reach out to The Rev. Vicki Hesse or call the office. Prayer requests may also be made online at [stmikeschurch.com/prayer-request](http://stmikeschurch.com/prayer-request).

## Stewardship

### Celebration Sunday, November 19

Have you made a commitment to support St. Michael's mission and ministries in 2024? Please return all pledge cards on or before November 19, 2023, so our vestry, clergy, and staff can prepare our 2024 budget.

Stewardship occurs in many ways and when done selflessly, it honors the giver, the receiver, and most importantly, God. Jesus' ministry was defined by the transformational ways he gave of himself. Each year St. Michael's seeks pledges to fund 100% of our budget for the coming year that allows us to live into our mission and ministries. Reaching our pledge goal for 2024 will allow us to:

- Continue offering abundant worship, music, and ministry experiences.
- Expand and future-plan for our thriving Children & Youth Ministries.
- Increase outreach giving, grants, and community engagement.
- Invite world-renowned guests to speak, teach, and preach.
- Make further investments in our gifted clergy and staff team.
- Increase administrative resources needed for our growing community.

To make a secure online 2024 pledge or to view our stewardship materials and a letter from our rector, visit: [www.stmikeschurch.com/stewardship](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/stewardship)

*Did you know? All of the materials in your stewardship packet (including the envelope) were printed in-house to save on costs.*



## The Saint John's Bible

What an honor and privilege it was to have the Dedication Ceremony for *The Saint John's Bible*, Heritage Edition CXLI on September 29, the feast day of St. Michael and All Angels. If you or someone you know would like to schedule a visit to experience *The Saint John's Bible* with a trained docent, visit [www.stmikeschurch.com/bible](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/bible) to submit a request. Also, did you



know coffee table books of each volume, notecards, and other *Saint John's Bible* related materials are available for purchase in the St. Bede's Bookstore and one set of these is available for viewing? Stop by during office hours, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, if you are interested in these. Interested in being a Docent? The next Docent Training is January 13 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.



# ALL PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Pet Columbarium

*"If having a soul means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude, then animals are better off than a lot of humans. You've nothing to worry about there." - James Herriot*

We love our pets, and we know they love us. Did you know that St. Michael's has a special and lovely spot to remember the beloved animals that we have lost? The Pet Columbarium is a place to put their ashes, watched over by St. Francis, and set a memorial brick with the pet's name. Contact the church office at 719-598-3244 for information.

## End of Year Giving

To make an end of year gift, please submit all online contributions by December 28 to ensure delivery by December 31. If writing a check, please include "2023 Pledge" in the memo line and be sure it is dated in 2023. All checks must be received by Sunday, January 7. Stock gifts take time to process, so if you plan to fulfill your pledge this way, please initiate your stock gift no later than December 14. If you have questions about your pledge balance or giving history, please contact our Finance Manager, Jan McLaughlin, at [treasurer@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:treasurer@stmikeschurch.com) or 719-598-3244 x 105. Every gift is essential to our ministry and is greatly appreciated.

### St. Michael's Episcopal Church

7400 Tudor Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80919 Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Office Telephone: 719-598-3244 [www.stmikeschurch.com](http://www.stmikeschurch.com)

The Rev. Matt Holcombe, Rector, x101	<a href="mailto:Matt@stmikeschurch.com">Matt@stmikeschurch.com</a>
The Rev. Vicki Hesse, Associate Rector, x102	<a href="mailto:Vicki@stmikeschurch.com">Vicki@stmikeschurch.com</a>
The Rev. Gary Darress, Deacon	<a href="mailto:Gary@stmikeschurch.com">Gary@stmikeschurch.com</a>
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Sanders	<a href="mailto:Joanne@stmikeschurch.com">Joanne@stmikeschurch.com</a>
The Rev. Dr. Winifred Mitchell, Assisting Clergy	<a href="mailto:Contact@stmikeschurch.com">Contact@stmikeschurch.com</a>
Owen Cops, Director of Children & Youth Ministries, x104	<a href="mailto:Owen@stmikeschurch.com">Owen@stmikeschurch.com</a>
Amalia Dobbins, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:Amalia@stmikeschurch.com">Amalia@stmikeschurch.com</a>
Daniel Foster, Organist	<a href="mailto:Daniel@stmikeschurch.com">Daniel@stmikeschurch.com</a>
Ama Couch, Communications Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Comm@stmikeschurch.com">Comm@stmikeschurch.com</a>
Diane Dennison, Front Desk, x100	<a href="mailto:Diane@stmikeschurch.com">Diane@stmikeschurch.com</a>
Drew Hutchinson, AV Technician	<a href="mailto:AVL@stmikeschurch.com">AVL@stmikeschurch.com</a>
Linda Kean, Newcomer Ministry Coordinator, x106	<a href="mailto:Linda@stmikeschurch.com">Linda@stmikeschurch.com</a>
Jan McLaughlin, Finance Manager, x105	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@stmikeschurch.com">Treasurer@stmikeschurch.com</a>
Jennie Wandfluh, Director of Parish Life, x103	<a href="mailto:Jennie@stmikeschurch.com">Jennie@stmikeschurch.com</a>
Bojana & Marinko Pantovic, Sextons	<a href="mailto:Contact@stmikeschurch.com">Contact@stmikeschurch.com</a>

### St. Michael's Vestry

Senior Warden: Russ Howell

Junior Wardens: Danny Raider, Mike Mapes / Treasurer: Chris Couch

Class of 2024: Andy Laffely, Elena Zarecky, Regina Winters

Class of 2025: Russ Howell, Linda Page, Rachel Stoller, Ruth Morrison

Class of 2026: Lee Kulbitski, Bob Poli, Rod Sato

Clerk: Aprel Mitchell

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## November Birthdays

November 1	Elena Zarecky
November 3	Simon Phillips
November 4	George Hammond
November 4	Margaret Miller
November 5	Lania Bryant
November 6	Bob Forster
November 6	Josephine Richardson
November 8	John Watkins
November 9	Luke Fenton
November 11	Aubrey Keserovic
November 11	Les Sharpless
November 11	Pat Wilson
November 12	Pat Pricenski
November 13	LuAnn Hanson
November 13	Rachel Stoller
November 16	Ellen Dickerman
November 16	Aaron Sutherlin
November 17	Judy Morrill
November 18	Melinda Hoyt
November 19	Patti Hanemann
November 20	Wanda Berthelot
November 20	Patty Hudson
November 20	Linda Kean
November 20	Emily Keller
November 20	Diane Verlinde
November 21	Maurice Gaubatz
November 22	Liz Valko
November 23	Daryle Hamblin
November 25	Crista DeJoia
November 25	Brandy Miller
November 25	Kristen Petersen
November 25	Lee Rasi
November 26	Margie Arms
November 26	Cindy Broin
November 26	Jason Chernak
November 27	Denise Brown
November 27	Sheron Marshall
November 27	John Wilhite
November 27	Rachel Wilsey
November 28	Jan Preher
November 29	Garrett Tomkins
November 30	Rhona Fletcher

## December Birthdays

December 1	Cade Wiedey
December 2	Marcy Capell
December 5	Lorrie Pettis
December 7	Ann Couch
December 7	Dorothy Scott
December 8	Jane Adair
December 9	Benjamin McElyea
December 9	Kim Newberry
December 10	Isaac DeJoia
December 10	B.J. Graham
December 10	David Newberry
December 11	Aria Quinn Bélanger
December 11	Keith Ketelsen
December 11	Beverly Raider
December 12	Sharon Dak
December 12	Ky Goodman
December 12	Karen Houser
December 12	Marna McLain
December 12	Janice Thorpe
December 13	Sonja Anderson
December 13	Sue Bessette
December 13	Kate Davenport
December 13	Ruth Cohenour
December 14	John Paul
December 15	Nathan Broin
December 16	Candice Chernak
December 16	Dee Gallagher
December 16	Melissa Gaubatz
December 16	Heather Torrey
December 17	Monica Cunningham
December 17	Evan Futey
December 17	Jane Leggett
December 18	Tim Terrill
December 19	Mary Anderson
December 19	Justine Smullen
December 21	Ethan Cowell
December 21	Pat Nielsen
December 21	Carol Swanson
December 22	Elizabeth Draves
December 22	Lee Kulbitski
December 23	Jesse Brown
December 23	Jeff Johnson

December 24	Mark Borchert
December 24	Shawn Brennan
December 25	Perry Keller
December 26	Diane Anderson
December 26	Daniel Tucker
December 27	Gary Darress
December 29	Emily Cabrera
December 30	Gus Combs
December 30	Melissa Geis
December 30	Christopher Graves
December 30	Barbara Pinckney
December 31	David Blom
December 31	Bryan Call
December 31	Chris Couch
December 31	Jasmine Geis
December 31	Bridget Hause
December 31	Debbie Swanson
December 31	Terry Thatcher

## November Anniversaries

November 1	David & Elizabeth Draves
November 1	Bob & Lorrie Pettis
November 4	Ama & Chris Couch
November 7	Carolyn & Daryk Scott
November 10	Christopher Graves & Regina Winters
November 11	Bob & Kim Poli
November 13	Dave & Jacline Harriman
November 16	Jon & Rose Numair
November 21	Diane & John Wilhite
November 23	Cliff & Wanda Berthelot
November 23	Jaan & Terry Raamot
November 27	Bob & Kay Wettemann
November 29	Steve & Sue Caruthers
November 29	Loretta & Thomas Vail

## December Anniversaries

December 5	Daniel & Sarah Tucker
December 9	Debbie & Doug Swanson
December 18	Jim & Marion Moore
December 21	Sheron & Wyre Marshall
December 27	Diane & Jim Anderson
December 29	Jennifer Carpenter & Rich Koshak
December 29	Kristal & Rex Harrison
December 30	Jocelyn & Neil Pettigrew



If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, we apologize. Please email Diane at [diane@stmikeschurch.com](mailto:diane@stmikeschurch.com) so we can update our database and celebrate you! Thank you!

X

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**St. Michael's**  
Episcopal Church  
COLORADO SPRINGS

7400 Tudor Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

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## CHRISTMAS LIGHT FESTIVAL

Friday & Saturday Nights

**December 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, & 23**

6:00 - 8:00 PM

**Admission:** \$5 per family AND one canned good per person or a new toy! Donations support St. Michael's Outreach Partners in Ministry.

Enjoy over 100,000 Christmas Lights!  
Hot chocolate and s'mores around the fire (\$)!  
Festive music and a HUGE light maze!  
Pictures with Santa and much, much more!



[www.stmikeschurch.com/lights](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/lights)

*(Shhh ... On Christmas Eve we will turn on the lights one final time for you to enjoy before or after you worship with us.)*

## *Christmas at St. Michael's*

**Sunday, December 24**

- 10:00 AM Advent 4 with Holy Eucharist
- 4:00 PM Family Service with Brass & Childcare
- 7:00 PM Traditional Service with Brass & Choir \*
- 11:00 PM Midnight Service with Incense \*

**Monday, December 25**

- 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service with Eucharist \*

**Sunday, December 31**

- 10:00 AM A Service for a New Year \*

Invite a friend, neighbor, and your family to join us this Christmas Season.

\* Livestream Services available at:  
[www.stmikeschurch.com](http://www.stmikeschurch.com)