



Christ the King
ELW setting 3

November 22, 2020

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Come, Thou Almighty King* Lani Smith, Tune ITALIAN HYMN by Felice de Giardini

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Holy One,

we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through † Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of power and might, **your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

THE LESSON

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

PSALM 95:1-7a

spoken responsively

¹Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

²Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.

³For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**

⁷For the LORD | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

"A Holy Surprise"

Pastor Derrick Fallon

HYMN #838 BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR



1 Beau-ti-ful Sav-ior, King of cre-a-tion,
2 Fair are the mead-ows, fair are the wood-lands,
3 Fair is the sun-shine, fair is the moon-light,
4 Beau-ti-ful Sav-ior, Lord of the na-tions,
Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs and of bloom-ing spring;
bright the spar-king stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!
Tru-ly I'd love thee, tru-ly I'd serve thee,
Je-sus is fair-er, Je-sus is pur-er,
Je-sus shines bright-er, Je-sus shines pur-er,
Glo-ry and hon-or, praise, ad-o-ra-tion,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown,
he makes our sor-rowing spir-it sing,
than all the an-gels in the sky,
now and for-ev-er-more be thine!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayers ends with one of these responses:

Lord, in your mercy, Hear us, O God. Bless we the Lord
hear our prayer. **Your mercy is great.** **Thanks be to God!**

(The prayers conclude:)

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

SENDING

BLESSING

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Triumph of the King

Edward Broughton

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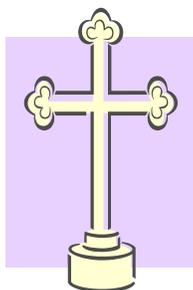
IN OUR PRAYERS

Prayer Request books can be found at each entryway. Requests written in the Prayer books will be included in today’s prayers; someone is added to the Prayer List by a note to Pastor or the church office, and will run for **four consecutive Sundays**. Requests may be renewed.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING are offered for all those celebrating birthdays this week, including **Bill Zoeller (Nov 22), Nancy Perez (Nov 25), Reid Fitter and Laura White (Nov 28)**.

CARE AND HEALING: Kimberly Bernardo, Ken Bielemeier, Jordan Ferenc, Rita Hausdorff, Charles Isaacs, Uncle Cas (C. P. Jannis), Joy Johansen, Liam Ledbetter-Dunn, Ann Moores, Joey Peter, Terri Rhodes, Marie Rhodes-Ryan, Toni Rohde, Tracey Roberts, Adrienne Rubenstein, Al Stauderman, George Utley III

MISSION PARTNERS: in the Gulf States, Martin Luther Church, (ELCA) Mobile, Alabama, and our NEW ENGLAND SYNOD PARTNERS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Palestine and the Holy Land, and the Lutheran church in Honduras



ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Nov 22 – 28, 2020

ONLINE? KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING...

Please use #stmichaelsnewcanaan as your hashtag on social media during the week. “Like” our Facebook Page: St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, New Canaan, CT.

CHECK OUT THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE!

The weekly announcements can be found on the St. Michael’s website (<http://www.stmichaelslutheran.org/ChurchNews/index.html>) under the “News and Resources” tab; then click on “Parishioner Area.” Please contact the church office at 203-966-3913 if you do not have the username and password.

SOCK DONATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS

The holiday season is right around the corner, and St. Michael’s will once again collect socks for the homeless this season. Last year, thanks to the generosity of members of SMLC, along with the match from the Norris family, 1600 pairs were donated!

Homeless people are getting sandwiches all day long, but very rarely do they receive socks. By handing out socks, you’re helping with a genuine need and creating a nonverbal connection that says, “You know something about homelessness. You care.”

Thank you in advance or your generosity – Diana VanDam

LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY

As part of our ongoing support of local benevolence service projects there will be a brief program about the LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs at our Dec. 6th worship service. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry is a national human care ministry embracing the unique calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The comfort dogs serve every day in the community in which they are placed and are dispatched throughout the country in times of disaster and crisis to bring comfort to all those affected.

We are hoping to have "Maggie" a resident comfort dog at Christ The King Lutheran Church in Newtown and her handlers join us Dec. 6th -- Covid restrictions allowing.

In the meantime, let me give you a link to a 10- minute Emmy winning video called *Wags N Tales* that was created by one of Maggie's handlers. It gives a good overview of the LCC K9 Comfort dogs ministry and it stars Maggie and her sister Addie. It is a fun video, take the time to watch it and enjoy: <https://vimeo.com/84066039>

St. Michael's will also be donating \$500 to support the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry.

INTRODUCING TITHE.LY ON-LINE GIVING

On-line giving is now available on our website at stmichaelslutheran.org. Once you’re on our website, click the Giving tab, then click the Giving to St. Michael’s tab, and then click Support the Ministry of St. Michael’s to access this new giving option.

We have partnered with a secure third-party affiliate called Tithe.ly to receive your gift.

Thank you for your ongoing stewardship and generosity. St. Michael’s Lutheran Church welcomes your gift to support our local and global ministries.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL BRIEFS – NOV. 9, 2020

Pastor's Report: The indoor attendance is approximately 25-30 attendees with 50-100 logging in on-line. Planning for two worship services at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve are being discussed by the Music and Worship Committee.

There was discussion on the rising covid rate and the nearing of a 4% infection rate. If the rate continues to rise, we may have to return to on-line worship only.

Treasurer's Report: Deb noted that member and related giving for October was below budget by \$8,849 and YTD is \$35,459 below budget. Our operating reserve is \$63,446 as of October 31 which gives us about three months of operations.

Fellowship: Due to covid, we will not have Christmas Eve on the Plaza.

Music and Worship: Barring no suspension of indoor worship due to covid, plans are being made to have two worship services on Christmas Eve, 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Members will need to make reservations so we will know how many will be in attendance since we can only seat 75 people at one time with social distancing.

Property: John noted that due to the retirement of Herbert Doenges, the Committee needs a chair.

Social Ministry: We will be participating in the virtual Person to Person Dove Program. This year, the white doves will be for a gift certificate to Stop and Shop and an on-line link will be provided for the green cash donation doves.

Covid permitting, a visit from a handler from Christ the King Lutheran Church in Newtown with a Lutheran K-9 Comfort Dog, "Maggie", will be held during our December 6 worship. Norma Gerwig will be using a video in promotional materials to be sent to the congregation in advance on Constant Contact.

PERSON TO PERSON'S VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

As the situation surrounding COVID-19 continues, we know that the most vulnerable among us will be disproportionately impacted during this uncertain time. Please consider a contribution to **Person to Person's Virtual Food Drive**.

We have set up a St. Michael's team at the following link: <https://give.p2phelps.org/fundraiser/2732899> so we can track contributions from our congregation. Previous contributions which noted SMLC in the comment section will be combined with this for a complete view of SMLC's contribution. By participating in the virtual food drive, you will be directly helping to ensure that local families have access to nutritious food and that children can continue to thrive.



Thank you so much - your support is needed now more than ever.

RECEIPT SUMMARY UPDATE

Summary of Receipts & Expenses: October 2020						
	October 31, 2020			Year to Date October, 2020		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Receipts	14,065	23,654	(9,589)	200,197	237,542	(37,345)
Expenses	22,989	21,165	1,824	217,343	234,643	(17,300)
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(8,924)	2,489	(11,413)	(17,146)	2,899	(20,045)

October 2020 receipts and expenses are listed above along with the year to date results.

- As of October 31, 2020, current cash balance is \$294,387. Offsetting this is restricted cash held for the Property Fund (\$174,495), the Organ Fund (\$14,393) and other liabilities including memorial funds (\$5,340). In June, we received a PPP loan of \$36,712 which is due 12/31/2020, but is forgivable if used for applicable expenses.

Not including funds from the PPP loan, we have operating reserves of \$63,446.

- On average, operations require \$23,750 in expenses. Current reserves will support about three months of operations.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE Nov. 15 28

Church Office (203) 966-3913
Derrick T. Fallon, Pastor
Iona Kucharczyk, Admin (203) 966-3913 fax 972-1238
Alla Borzova, Director of Music
Joanne Corney, President
Website (Stephen Galyas; webmaster)

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