

# St. Michael and All Angel Episcopal Church

## Listening Session Responses

### Question 2

December responses are taken directly from the index cards. **January responses are in bold.** Responses are taken directly from the index cards and notes written by note takers during the two ZOOM sessions. The notes from the ZOOM sessions which were recorded and then transcribed by the note takers may be longer in length.

**Question Number 2:** What are three things you value most about our congregation?

- **We are Episcopal!**
- Preaching and singing at the church services
- Music
- **Music**
- **Music**
- **Music**
- **Music**
- **Music**
- **Music**
- **Music – Richness of music including choir and musicians.**
- **Music (from the choir, guests, lyrics)**
- **Joyful music and singing**
- **Singing the service (9:00) and seeing and experiencing how the music reaches the congregation.**
- **Music aspect of our congregation – we are fairly music forward in many ways and that we value that.**
- **Diverse music offerings like today’s jazz music.**
- **The importance of music. The many styles contribute to the deepening and meaning of the service.**
- Music and Spirituality
- Classical music (remember 11:30?)
- Classically oriented music, including hymns
- Music from the Gather Hymnal: better texts, more in range of people’s singing
- I value the 1) music and the 2) opportunity to perform and bless 3) those listening.
- Music Ministry
- Diverse music well done in different services –integrity
- **Two choirs that fit different congregations**
- The music is important at St. Michael’s and can be quite moving. The diverse style of music is good.
- Sometimes the music can be quite moving!
- The music (now we have a “choir” for the 11:30 service)
- Music! I’ve enjoyed both/and of alternating styles at the one main service, Openness
- Acceptance and accommodation of different preferences for music
- The music has been important and the appreciation of aesthetics and liturgy.
- Care and support to the greater community
- Committed to community within (maybe need more outreach to community)

- Outreach to the community.
- **Community outreach (as in La Luz)**
- **Service to the community – outreach via food, support, and love.**
- **Commitment to service.**
- Outreach
- Outreach
- Social outreach and activism – walk the talk, live the values, experience God thru listening
- **Commitment to activism.**
- Christian social action
- Over the year, the parish’s involvement in local outreach, e.g. St. Martin’s, the local elementary school.
- Outreach – settled/cutting edge
- Outreach a. Navajos - Believe pandemic interrupted the Navajo ministry; b. Immigrants; c. homeless and hungry; d. school is very integral to our nature
- School
- Active Ministries
- Collaboration with ministries, support of clergy of ministry
- Outreach: LGBTQ+, immigrants, Food Pantry
- **Serving the community in real ways (Food Pantry, Housing, Immigrants)**
- **The food pantry**
- **Immigration work**
- **Ministry to migrants – The Landing.**
- **Immigration support**
- **Willingness to support outreach ministries**
- The liberal stance e.g. accepting LGBTQ
- **Progressive view**
- Pastoral Care
- The kind, friendly clergy and general atmosphere
- **The warmth of the clergy for the congregation.**
- **Calling Pastors like Brian and Joe who have an honest love for teaching and intellect.**
- **Value seeing female priests!!**
- **Women supports – Mother Mandy’s ordination.**
- **Women on staff/clergy (Is parish open to woman Rector?)**
- Ease with Pastorate
- Pastors make - M & W - balanced perspective and strengths
- Committed clergy and staff during the past transition and this transition.
- Interim takes this very seriously.
- The appreciation of Father Lee Lowery, our interim priest, who takes his job very seriously
- The sense of humor
- Inclusiveness: how we are welcoming of all people even those from other faiths and belief systems
- Strong appreciative attendance
- Wide inclusiveness (yet weak on ethnicity)
- Inclusivity/acceptance
- Acceptance
- **Acceptance of each other.**
- **Friendly to newcomers**
- **The interest the members have in interacting with new parishioners**

- **Inclusion – all people are welcome**
- **Inclusive – all are welcome**
- **All-inclusive and accepting**
- **Welcoming to everyone**
- **Inclusive – not just lip service. We are open – not just saying the words but in all of our actions.**
- **The people who attend and varied and inclusive.**
- **Welcoming – friendliness, caring**
- **Friendly warmth**
- **No matter if I come regularly or sporadically, I always feel welcomed and home.**
- **Inclusion/acceptance of all people (especially marginalized)**
- **The church is open to all people**
- **Open to all people**
- **Open to all really!**
- **The openness**
- **Everyone is accepted here – political, race, creed, color, gender, etc.**
- **We meet people where they are (example: some people engage a lot/others engage a little). If you need to take a step back, some want introspection and do study/others just go to church.**
- All are welcome without question.
- Inclusivity thinking vs “angry God” thinking in many churches
- Inclusivity
- Inclusivity
- Inclusivity
- **Inclusivity**
- **Inclusivity**
- **Inclusivity**
- Inclusive
- **Attempt to be inclusive**
- **Inclusiveness**
- Inclusiveness,
- **Inclusion**
- **Inclusion**
- **We are inclusive! We don’t just say it – we mean it!**
- **Inclusivity and diversity**
- **Racial justice**
- **Our people especially the way we include others.**
- **Accepting**
- **Acceptance of nontraditional families**
- Inclusiveness within the church and outreach with some inclusive energy
- **The intersection of prayerfulness and justice-seeking.**
- This parish shows its faith by inclusiveness in language, prayers, leadership especially women and LGBTQ (but coming back to transition, lack of colonial language/song)
- Total inclusivity and welcoming of LGBTQ persons. This was begun by Father Brian Taylor. Eventually, other churches followed St. Michael’s lead
- Inclusivity with LGBTQIA – especially support for Trans persons.
- The liberal stance, accepting LGBTQ for instance
- Diverse (some culturally, even politically)
- Diversity (we celebrate differences)

- Diversity with graciousness
- **Diversity**
- **Diversity**
- **Diversity**
- **Diversity**
- **The wide diversity and interests – accepting of others.**
- **Tolerance**
- **Open/diverse – not judging embracing persons with different life backgrounds.**
- **Open mindedness.**
- An openness to a variety of cultural experiences
- Acceptance – the ability to see people as people and to accept everyone for who they are
- **Acceptance even if we disagree**
- **Accepting of diverse points of view**
- Open to diversity of viewpoints, backgrounds, experiences
- Diversity – not conformity but welcome of differences
- Willing to listen and appreciate viewpoints that differ.
- **People are open and willing to listen to each other.**
- The diversity of people who are gracious of different ideas.
- United in love for Christ.
- Accepting
- Accepting
- Acceptance and welcoming
- **Acceptance of everyone**
- **Acceptance of all to worship**
- **What you see and hear, shakes to Soul and Spirit which results in action which affects all.**
- **Acceptance of where you are in life.**
- **The community is friendly and accepting. Made her feel like she was one of them. (example: she got to know a lot of people through coffee social hours.)**
- Acceptance and accommodation
- Acceptance of LGBTQ community
- **Respect -"Everyone is free to be who they are." Likes that we have the LGBTQ service.**
- No litmus test – people feel comfortable admitting doubts of being Buddhist.
- No judgement on appearances, background, social status.
- History differences, esp. backgrounds to those who are new
- Open conversation one-on-one with members
- At St. Michael's, there is a place for both the exalted and sublime and the opposite
- Love of one another and our neighbors
- **The love and commitment to others.**
- **Sense of pride in who we are – commitment to service, contemplative core, welcoming, accepting.**
- Message of Love
- **Compassion and kindness from others**
- Many opportunities and settings – apart from Sunday – to get to know each other.
- **There are opportunities to meet people (example: Newcomers is for everyone.) Meet people a different way and learn stuff.**
- Multitude of storytelling among parishioners
- **The activities available from the serious to the fun things**
- **I get to pray and play. Nor formality or set structure. Its home!**

- **People into a deeper connection. A well-established ministry of Holy Fools that bring lightness and laughter and joy into the life of the congregation and into the lives of congregants.**
- **Community**
- **There is a sense of community, like a family. She has felt comfortable since first coming to St. Michael's. An environment that is great for people moving to Albuquerque,**
- **Community – we pull together no matter what.**
- **Working together**
- **Focus on growing together in BALANCE.**
- **The people**
- People
- Friendly people
- **Friendships and people who attend**
- **Friendships I've made. This is my community!**
- **Relationships with people who I've known for years. Like a big family.**
- People in the congregation have a warm and generous spirit
- **Caring generosity**
- **Community – warm, supportive, active.**
- **Joy for and passion for this community.**
- **The overall congeniality of the people**
- **My family is there. Not just my blood family but my church family is in the congregation. And if their bottoms are not in a pew, I know they are online with me and that has been really, really nice. I really value that, that sense of community and that sense of family.**
- Most people in the congregation are committed to the community within the church.
- **Diversity of talents and ages**
- There is a variety of people
- **The diversity of the people who come to this church.**
- **The variety of the people in the congregation – different walks of life.**
- Members – openness, friendly and engaging
- **People are friendly, kind, and generous**
- Lots of great people in the congregation
- Friendships of members of the congregation
- Easy friendliness
- Companions in my journey
- My long-time friends
- Long-term friendships
- Companionship
- **The love and concern shown among us.**
- Fellowship/relationships
- **Fellowship**
- **Kindness of Parishioners**
- **We have made some very dear friends in the short time we've been here (4 years)**
- Friendships that have developed over the years – often through small groups like Art & Spirituality or the Discernment group.
- Small groups are REALLY important – all kinds
- **Participation opportunities – Eucharistic visitor, counter, Sigh Scorers.**
- **Our church community works on at least two levels. The Morning Prayer service brings together a small group who have come to know each other. We are like minded.**
- Welcoming; fellowship with other seekers

- Welcoming
- Welcoming
- **Welcoming**
- **Welcoming to all**
- **Welcoming to all. Examples are the Food Pantry, LGBTQ community are welcome, The Landing**
- Welcoming
- **The welcoming attitude**
- **Welcome LGBTQ+ the Naming Ceremony**
- **Welcomeness**
- Warm/welcoming presence
- **Everyone is welcome**
- **Welcomingness**
- **Embracing**
- Hospitality and authentic welcome
- **The congregation is welcoming and accepting**
- The welcome nature of the community where there is a sense of inclusiveness and openness to others.
- **The sense of love toward people who are different from ourselves.**
- Joy in coming on campus
- **Feeling of Peace and Joy**
- Families welcome in the sanctuary
- Everyone is welcome to communion, at least in word
- Eucharist
- **Communion – Body and Blood**
- Walk in and be accepted....regardless
- All are welcome, inclusivity.
- Diversity in many ways: viewpoints, backgrounds, life experiences...open
- **The congregation is diverse.**
- Willing to be open and listen before making judgements
- **We take challenges. We take a deep dive into all aspects of our spirituality. We are curious but not judgmental. We want to get to know each other. We meet you where you are.**
- Courageous and radical welcoming.
- A welcoming group
- **Hospitality**
- The friendliness of everyone – the willingness to serve: “Just ask and I’ll help”
- Community: people jump in to take care of each other and the stranger
- **We are not afraid to reach out and reach in. That says a lot about who we are.**
- Community outreach. Practice what you preach
- **The congregation is dedicated to service of those in need (socially conscience).**
- **Community: helping immigrants, the pantry, SMAA School.**
- **Fulfilling the needs of the community: backpacks and books for elementary school, food pantry, immigration, asylum seekers.**
- **Many opportunities to be involved in community**
- **The ministries try to meet everyone’s needs.**
- **Willingness to serve others – congregants, community, strangers**
- **Opportunities for all to participate in outreach – a means to do what you are called to do.**
- **Opportunity to create and participate in a new ministry.**
- Dedication to outreach especially in the neighborhood, community, and borders

- Sense that we are “in the world” – in our neighborhood and caring for people in The Landing
- Many people are involved in various activities. It’s not the same people running everything
- Courage: we are willing to buck the preached (sic) orthodoxy to do what we think is right.
- Progressive values, but inclusive of all
- Progressive theology
- **Worship – theology that related to where we are**
- Strong Lay Leadership - We let clergy know where we want to be led
- Creativity to problem solving of the congregation
- Adaptability – able to change and move forward.
- **A widespread acceptance of change.**
- **Willingness and demonstrated ability to change/adapt thoughtfully.**
- **Creativity and openness to new things; there doesn’t seem to be a lot of fear of change, which I think is good.**
- **Willingness to adapt and respond to the needs of our community dynamically.**
- **Place where modern ideas can meet tradition**
- **General engagement if the parish community to a call to action be it immigration, gay marriage, someone who is in a time of need**
- A humility about what we know and what we don’t and that’s ok
- History of being active with immigration and LGBTQ issues/people
- **Social action manifest in the food pantry, The Landing and all activities to embrace the gay community or diversity in general**
- Passion for social justice
- **Active social justice**
- **Support for social justice.**
- **Emphasis on social justice.**
- **Honoring our focus on justice and reaching our neighbors with LOVE – always spirit-based.**
- Community – how we come together to support each other;
- Opportunities for building Christian communities
- A caring group for those within and without the community.
- **Our care for one another.**
- **Our care for the broader community.**
- **Our willingness to help others. If there is a need, we are there.**
- Sense of community service
- **The communal desire to do God’s work.**
- **Our sense of community – that we are united in that our purpose is to be part of the Body of Christ and to carry out the mission of Christ’s teachings**
- Sense that we are “in the world” –in our neighborhood; caring for people in The Landing.
- Outreach to immigrants
- **Outreach – in the community (mission) and to immigrants, etc.**
- Outreach ministries
- Enough ministries to accommodate almost everyone
- **The many opportunities to serve.**
- **We have very active volunteers – act on our beliefs.**
- **The diversity of interests in how we do God’s work.**
- Action/Ministry focused
- Spiritual
- **The freedom to explore any spiritual question – wherever it takes me or us.**
- **Faithfulness**

- **“Unselfconscious faithfulness” is a phrase that includes the warm welcome.**
- **Passion to live out our faith**
- **We follow through on JPs closing blessing.**
- Strong sense of community which then facilitates doing God’s work
- Fostering a Christian movement through worship and ministries
- Generosity: we share our abundance with the community through the Food Pantry for example;
- Space/money/time where our mouth is
- **Giving**
- **Giving and supportive financially**
- **Generosity**
- **Emotional generosity (we are together in joyful times and in sorrowful times) and financial generosity**
- **We invest in our clergy, campus, and community**
- Intellectual
- Intelligent, thoughtful sermons
- **Thoughtfulness**
- Insightful and interesting sermons
- Good sermons
- Sermons of depth
- **Everyday practical sermons on how to be a Christian**
- **Sermons! Especially those I can relate to!!!**
- **Sermons are meaningful, thought provoking. They’re part of us. We’re part of them.**
- Thoughtful, provocative sermons comfort the afflicted affliction for the comforted
- Sermons are effective because they inspire pondering and are gentle challenges to spur internal growth
- Readings become meaningful since applied to our everyday lives
- **The gospel ACTION that is preached by word and deed.**
- Scripture reading-based sermons relating to “now” life
- **Living our values through ministry and sermons that speak to that.**
- My congregation in East Lansing Michigan was radically welcoming; friendly and able to put “lessons” in a real life way so the readings became meaningful
- Learning communities here are places for critical thinking, bonding, and integration of our spirituality and life philosophies.
- **Opportunities for spiritual learning**
- **Praise – focus on learning from Christ to consider modern life too.**
- **Spirit led and Spirit fed**
- **The creativity and inclusion of many gifts of the spirit – art, music, wisdom, courage.**
- **Willing to explore Christianity from many different perspectives.**
- Beauty “We walk in beauty” intentional worship and rituals preaching meaning
- **Contemporary yet steeped in ritual (rites) – sense of timelessness especially our setting.**
- Our contemplative orientation – taught us to be quiet and be comfortable in silence.
- **Contemplative core.**
- An appreciation for the reverence of the service and order of worship (It’s not a praise band).
- Diversity of expression of faith in worship
- **Diversity of service offerings – time/style/music**
- Care taken with worship
- **I love that we have a great many different worship events during the year (All Souls Day, Jazz Mass, Mass for Healing, etc.)**



- Formality of services
- Sense of togetherness in worship
- **We go beyond the physical walls of our church (example: online congregation, morning prayer, etc.). Online services make it easier to attend church regularly and creates a supportive network. Accessibility of daily Morning Prayer has strengthened our prayer life as well.**
- **Online services allowed her to feel connected.**
- **Our congregation can be flexible. Morning Prayer was a saving grace during lockdown. She was in her home alone except for her cat for a year.**
- Young families are valued. Children have a space/place in our church.
- **Emphasis on children/family**
- **Family focus**
- **Supportive of families providing child care/nursery/Children's Church**
- **Including, encouraging children to participate in services.**
- **Giving children a role in the Gospel.**
- **The participation of young people in our services. Exposure of our youth to spirituality versus not just religion.**
- **There is a place for children in the service.**
- **Community of/for children**
- **Children's formation – very important when this person was first looking for a church.**
- **There is intentional inclusion of children and youth groups. Trunk or Treat and all those activities are so important to get to the little ones coming to church and feeling part of that community. It makes a big difference in our children's impression of church and religion.**
- **Interest in engaging families either through the Day School or through children's chapel**
- A God centered group – services
- Different service styles and times
- **Variety of worship styles in our three services.**
- **Acceptance of 3 different ways of worship on Sunday.**
- Diversity of the service content
- Talents brought to service, etc.
- Three distinct services
- Meeting the needs, preferences of many people – 3 distinctly different services
- Offer different styles at services
- Different styles of services with each distinct
- **I really value the different styles of worship we offer. I'm not sure everyone realizes how unique that is. The fact that our 7:30/9:30/11:30 are totally different and not just in a Rite I versus Rite II kind of way but that they are very different services. I love that as one body, we still offer a bunch of options for people. In churches in my past, that has not always been available.**
- **The 7:30 service to start the day. The family feeling you get from other people.**
- **The early service (7:30) – powerfully peaceful.**
- I like having 3 different types of services and service a variety of expectations, ways to worship.
- 3 different services that offer 3 flavors of worship: however I didn't like "chopping off parts of the Episcopal service because it was making us too generic"
- Thoughtful/intellectual discourse (sermons, classes)
- Different worship opportunities: Sunday, retreats, silent sits, etc.
- **Supporting each member with a variety of programs – to guide us on our journey.**
- **Continuing endurance of communities – especially old Live at Five.**

- **Morning Prayer. I am a devoted prayer worshiper. I can do that on my drive to work.**
- **Morning Prayer**
- Liturgy; Preaching; Community.
- **Liturgy**
- **Beautiful liturgy and fine preaching.**
- Variety of liturgy
- **Good quality liturgical practice.**
- **Reverence for liturgy**
- **Liturgical acknowledgement of world issues.**
- **Traditions of a formal “mass” which I was brought up with.**
- Liturgical orientation – hopefully not too rigid!
- **Open to many prayer books and spiritual practices**
- **Openness of spirit**
- **“Our openness to encouraging a broad understanding of faith”.**
- Emphasis on spirituality and liturgy
- **Spirituality in song and prayer**
- That the altar becomes a place of participation – Dia de los Muertos, Guadalupe Sunday, Eucharist each Sunday.
- Liturgy – orientation around Eucharist and sacramental
- **The Eucharistic center of our liturgy. Never want to lose that or have it downgraded.**
- **The beauty of our worship space and liturgy steeped in prayer.**
- The beauty of the sanctuary.
- The simplicity and peaceful sanctuary.
- Church space – modern but inclusive and flexible
- The idea of and belief in the empty cross, like the empty tomb, the sing of victory, that Christ has departed in glory
- Using beauty – the visual, the iconography – to practice the presence of holiness.
- Worship – being part of the apostolic successor. Being part of doing God’s work.
- Creative in music, liturgy, aesthetics
- **Placing a high value on aesthetics – music, art, beauty.**
- **Artistry and simplicity**
- **Dignity and high quality of aesthetics to enhance our worship. Not as a performance but as a deeply moving spiritual communal worship.**
  - *Elaboration: involves the visual setting like changing with the seasons. Little touches that contribute to my sense of making our church a holy place. With music as my background – high quality music spans both classical and contemporary. Both are 1<sup>st</sup> class. Sometimes we fall short but we strive for it.*
  - *Follow On: Our aesthetics skills really do amazing things. Thinking of the Madonna’s on Christmas Eve and how they were depicted. It was amazing. It was very cool.*
  - *Follow On: Really liked aesthetics answer. It will stick with me. It’s a good thing I am not writing the OTM portfolio – I would have a personal bias toward putting that front and center.*
  - *Follow On (several people): Do you guys remember when Sue Ellen and Cathy folded all those cranes and hung them? And David Martin. We have never seen anything like that ever. It must have been hours and hours of origami. It was magical!*
- **Intention toward quality and innovation in worship, music, teaching, and relationships.**
- Worship offers many sacraments
- **Beautiful (but not fussy) worship**

- Diversity of offerings for Adult Forum series; “The wisdom of the Elders” in this church.
- **Opportunities to deepen spiritual Christian knowledge through groups, education, readings, and prayer.**
- **Encouraging spiritual growth.**
- **Sense of space to be where I am in my spiritual journey. I’ve (almost) never been told what I have to believe.**
- Appreciation of spiritual lay elders here
- Variety of formation classes
- Willing to try new things even if they don’t succeed.
- **Openness to change**
- St. Michael’s is always trying new ideas, e.g. Father Joe’s idea of rearranging the church pews to see if it would improve the services.
- Appreciation of both art and politics
- Appreciation and commitment to arts before I arrived 30 years ago.
- Strong support for music and arts in a long tradition going back to Tatschl windows
- Talent and Artistry
- Parish response to COVID: remote access, Drive-by Communion, etc.
- **Communication – newsletter, Facebook.**
- Property maintenance and development
- **Larger than most in ABQ**