

# ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

---

*Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ*

---

*<sup>8</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other,*



*"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

**Third Sunday of Easter**  
April 19, 2026 at 8:15 & 11:00 AM  
*Liturgy of Holy Communion*

## **WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL'S!**

If you are visiting with us for the first time, please share in all that is ours in Christ! We invite you to consider making St. Michael's your church home. Please ask us about our participation in God's mission in the world. By God's grace we celebrate and share Christ. *Our worship services this morning are streamed live to St. Michael's Facebook and YouTube pages. Please keep conversation to a minimum in the sanctuary, you may be picked up by our sound system. If you prefer not to be seen on camera please speak to an usher and they will seat you outside of the video frame. Thank you for your understanding.*

## **DIGITAL SIGN IN**

To help keep each other safe, you are welcome to sign in with our new digital sign in. Please use the QR Code that can be found here in the bulletin or the iPad in the Narthex.



Ministers: The People of St. Michael's  
The Reverend Christopher Bruesehoff, Pastor (pastor@stmlutheran.org)  
Mark P. Dishong, Director of Music (markdishong@gmail.com)  
601 Kings Highway N., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034  
856-667-0973, Fax: 856-755-1247  
office@stmlutheran.org www.stmichaelslutheranchurch.org

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*From SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24280  
and streamed by permission under OneLicense.net #A-711336.*

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide*

## INTRODUCTION

*Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*"Pastorale in C"*

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*The assembly is invited to stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us, including the Delaware River and Atlantic Ocean. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN :***“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!”*

ELW 377

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!  
 Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
 Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!  
 Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

*Refrain*

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.  
 Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2 Walking the way, Christ in the center  
 telling the story to open our eyes;  
 breaking our bread, giving us glory:  
 Jesus our blessing, our constant  
 surprise. *Refrain*

3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches;  
 life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;

heaven to earth, Christ to the people,  
 gift of the future now flowing to me.

*Refrain*

4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:  
 death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
 Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!  
 Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

*Refrain*

5 City of God, Easter forever,  
 golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
 river of life, saints and archangels,  
 sing with creation to God the I AM!

*Refrain*

*Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926. Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336*

**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.**

**KYRIE****Refrain***Assistant:**Congregation:*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord, have mer-cy,




Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

*to Verses*

*Assistant:* For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)


*Assistant:* For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

*Assistant:*



Help, save and de - fend us, O

*Congregation:*




God. A - men.


## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

### Refrain


*Congregation:*




Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,



all of cre - a - tion sings for joy



to the God of life and love and



free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -

er - more!

**Verse 1**

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once

slain, whose blood has freed and u -

nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of

God. *to Refrain*

slain, whose blood has freed and u -

nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of

God. *to Refrain*

## Verse 2

*Congregation or Congregation 2:*

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and  
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ  
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

## Verse 3

*Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to  
make us peo - ple of God; to make  
all things new. *to Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## FIRST READING

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

*Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: <sup>36</sup>

“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

## SECOND READING

**1 Peter 1:17-23**

*The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.*

A reading from First Peter.

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born

anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Optional Repeat*

**GOSPEL:**

**Luke 24:13-35**

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But

we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

“We Come to the Hungry Feast”

ELW 479

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | We come to the hungry feast<br>hungry for a word of peace.<br>To hungry hearts unsatisfied<br>the love of God is not denied.<br>We come, we come to the hungry feast. | 2 | We come to the hungry feast<br>hungry for a world released<br>from hungry folk of ev'ry kind,<br>the poor in body, poor in mind.<br>We come, we come to the hungry feast. |
|---|---|---|---|

3 We come to the hungry feast  
hungry that the hunger cease,  
and knowing, though we eat our fill,  
the hunger will stay with us; still  
we come, we come to the hungry feast.

*Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943. Text © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336*

### **NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation, responding with "receive our prayer".

*A brief silence.*

Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick, especially...those we name aloud...and those we hold in our hearts. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal Light, we give thanks for Olavus Petri, Laurentius Petri and all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERING**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING:**

8:15: "Open Our Eyes, Lord"

11:00: "We Walk By Faith"

Vocal Choir

*Offering is being gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You are invited to place your offering in one of the offering plates located in the rear of the Sanctuary or send your offering to the church office through the mail or by having your bank mail a check directly. You can also contribute using any of the electronic giving options found on our church website or app.*

The assembly is invited to stand.

## OFFERTORY

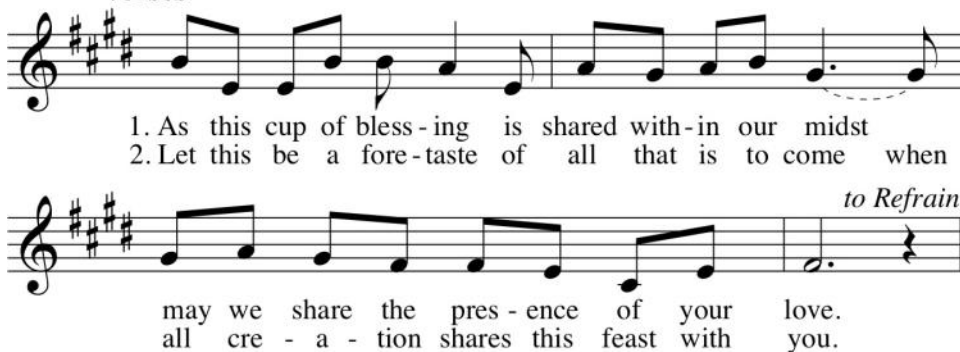
### Refrain

*Congregation:*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;  
so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be  
gath - ered in - to one in you.

### Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst  
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

*to Refrain*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

*Presider:* *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

*Presider:* *Congregation:*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider:* *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

### PROPER PREFACE

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.


## DISTRUBTION OF COMMUNION

We give thanks as we receive the real presence of our resurrected Lord in, with, and under the bread and the wine. Communion will be distributed continuously under the direction of the ushers. Take an empty cup to receive from a pouring chalice (let the communion assistant know if you prefer grape juice). Please let the pastor know if you require a gluten free host. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you." and each person may respond, "Amen". Worshippers who are not yet communing are invited to come forward for a blessing.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION


Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
you break the chains of ha - tred and  
you are the way of jus - tice and  
you are the way of mer - cy and


*Congregation:*



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
fear:  
peace:  
love.

**Final Stanza**

*Congregation or Assistant:*



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 you break the chains of ha - tred and  
 you are the way of jus - tice and  
 you are the way of mer - cy and



*Congregation:*  
 world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
 fear:  
 peace:  
 love.

**Final Stanza**



*Congregation or Assistant:*  
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



*Congregation:*  
 take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*The assembly is seated.*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

*“Day of Arising”*

ELW 374

1 Day of arising,  
 Christ on the roadway,  
 unknown companion walks with his  
 own.  
 When they invite him,  
 as fades the first day,  
 and bread is broken, Christ is made  
 known.

2 When we are walking,  
 doubtful and dreading,  
 blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,  
 yet Christ walks with us,  
 ever awaiting  
 our invitation: Stay, do not part.

3 Lo, I am with you,  
Jesus has spoken.  
This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's  
sign:  
when the church gathers,  
when bread is broken,  
there Christ is with us in bread and  
wine.

4 Christ, our companion,  
hope for the journey,  
bread of compassion, open our eyes.  
Grant us your vision,  
set all hearts burning  
that all creation with you may rise.

*Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953. Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336*

*“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”*

ELW 484

*Refrain*

You satisfy the hungry heart  
with gift of finest wheat.  
Come give to us, O saving Lord,  
the bread of life to eat.

1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,  
they know and heed his voice;  
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,  
we follow and rejoice. *Refrain*

2 With joyful lips we sing to you  
our praise and gratitude  
that you should count us worthy, Lord,  
to share this heav'nly food. *Refrain*

3 Is not the cup we bless and share  
the blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare  
our oneness in the Lord? *Refrain*

4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,  
no mortal tongue can tell:  
whom all the world cannot contain  
comes in our hearts to dwell. *Refrain*

5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;  
then selfless let us be,  
to serve each other in your name  
in truth and charity. *Refrain*

*Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997. Text © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336*

*After all have commune the assembly is invited to stand if able.*

**TABLE BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in Christ's  
Grace.

**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION SONG

*Congregation:*

1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:  
2. From of old you loved and sought us:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the  
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!  
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your

love, re - mem - b'ring your cov-e-nant of

life with us. 3. Praise to you, O

God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for

ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## SENDING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*“Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen”*

ELW 548

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,<br>from this meal of love and grace;<br>may we through such love envision<br>whose we are, and whose, our praise.<br>Alleluia, alleluia;<br>God, the wonder of our days.           | 3 Rise, remember well the future<br>God has called us to receive;<br>present by God's loving nurture,<br>Spirited then let us live.<br>Alleluia, alleluia;<br>Spirit, grace by whom we live. |
| 2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow<br>after Christ, though wounded, whole;<br>broken, shared, our lives are hallowed<br>to release and to console.<br>Alleluia, alleluia;<br>Christ, our present, past, and goal. | 4 Service be our sure vocation;<br>courage be our daily breath;<br>mercy be our destination<br>from this day and unto death.<br>Alleluia, alleluia.<br>Rise, O church, a living faith.       |

*Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953. Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

*“Songs of Thanksgiving and Praise”*

*The Eternal Candle is given by Vicki & Jim Clemson in celebration of  
Jimmy and Madeleine's wedding.*

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church—*Sunday, April 19, 2026***

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

**Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109—*Tuesday, April 21, 2026***

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

**El Día de la Creación (Day of the Creation) (LLC)—*Wednesday, April 22, 2026***

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

**Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960—*Thursday, April 23, 2026***

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

**Mark, Evangelist—*Saturday, April 25, 2026***

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Confirmation class will meet on an irregular schedule. The class schedule for the next few weeks is as follows:

- Sundays, April 19, & 26

All classes start at 7:00 PM. If you have any questions about confirmation or are interested in being a presenter for this year's program please contact Pastor Chris.

### **CHRISTIAN ED**

Check out our bulletin board for full details and schedules for our groups. The schedule for the next few weeks is as follows:

- Michael Lights (6-12th grade) will meet on 4/19
- Pray & Grow (K-5th grade) will meet on 4/26
- Faith in Conversation (All Adults) will meet on 5/10
- Little Ones & Loved Ones (birth to 4/years) will meet on 5/17

All groups meet at 9:30 AM. Please see Pastor Chris, or Kim Billet with questions.

### **SPRING AFTERNOON TEA**

New this year - celebrate Spring with Afternoon Tea! Everyone is invited to join the Parish Fellowship team in the Social Hall for a casual gathering following the 11:00 worship service on Sunday 5/3/26. Expect small sandwiches, scones, cookies, coffee and of course tea! To reserve your space, see a Parish Fellowship member in the Narthex after each worship service by 4/26, or email Sue Shaw ([sueshaw06@gmail.com](mailto:sueshaw06@gmail.com)).

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, April 22nd at 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM. Please contact the office if you wish to be put on the email list.

### **SNOW REMOVAL APPEAL**

This winter brought two major snowstorms, and keeping our church property safe for worship and ministry has come at a significant cost. We budgeted \$12,000 for lawn and snow maintenance in 2026, but the severity of the storms means we have already spent over \$11,000. With the possibility of more snow later this year, we are inviting special gifts to help cover these unexpected expenses. If you feel moved to contribute, please note "snow removal" with your offering, go to [smlc.churchtrac.com/give](http://smlc.churchtrac.com/give) or use the QR code Thank you for your generosity and for helping us care for our shared space and one another.



### **MARTHA CIRCLE**

The next meeting of Martha Circle will be Tuesday, April 21st at 12:00pm in the Social Hall. Dottie Leonard's group is in charge of beverages and desserts. Bring your lunch and your ideas. All are welcome to join us!

### **RENTING SPACE AT ST. MICHAEL'S**

We welcome opportunities to share our space with St Michael's family members and friends in our community. There are a variety of rooms available for social gatherings, such as bridal or baby showers, birthday and retirement celebrations and memorial events. We have hosted music lessons, recitals, auditions and rehearsals. Our social hall stage is well-suited to support students or performers at all levels. Civic groups or social / hobby clubs are also invited. Flexible office space is available for those who work from home but occasionally need a site for meetings or interviews. Honorariums for the use of church spaces vary based on event details. Please note that the church building and grounds are smoke and alcohol free.

### **BOOK CLUB**

Join The SMLC Book Club on April 4th at 7:00 PM for our discussion of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. All are welcome to join us—you do not need to be a member, just have a love for books and good conversation. See Trudy Carr with questions or contact the office.

### **JOSEPH'S HOUSE BREAKFAST CASSEROLES**

Joseph's House continues its ministry to feed the homeless in Camden. The next opportunity to provide BREAKFAST casseroles will be THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026. Casseroles can be dropped off between 10:00 AM and 12 Noon at the Elkins Road door. Please only use the tins and recipe provided by SMLC that can be found in the narthex. Use this link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/4vxQneT>



# CROSS ROADS SUMMER CAMP 2026

*Celebrating Twenty-Six years of fun and faith!*



MINI CAMP (grades 1-3): July 12-15

YOUTH CAMP : July 5-11; 18-18, 19-25; July 26-August 1, August 2-8

SENIOR HIGH CAMP: July 5-11

FAMILY CAMP: August 9-14

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND: August 14-16

**Register Now**



*For More Information:*

[crossroadsretreat.com/summercamp](https://crossroadsretreat.com/summercamp)

Spots are still available for Summer 2026!  
Scan the QR code for more information.  
See Pastor Chris with any questions or concerns.



## **PARISH CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, April 19**

8:15 AM Worship In-Person  
9:30 AM MichaelLights  
11:00 AM Worship In-Person, Facebook &  
YouTube  
12:15 PM Vocal Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 PM NA Meeting  
6:00 PM Gathering Planning Meeting  
7:00 PM Confirmation Class

### **Monday, April 20**

### **Tuesday, April 21**

12:00 PM Martha's Circle  
6:00 PM Property Meeting  
7:30 PM Christian Ed Meeting

### **Wednesday, April 22**

11:00 PM Bible Study  
9:30 AM Weight Watchers Meeting  
6:00 PM Bible Study

### **Thursday, April 23**

10:00 AM Casserole Drop-off  
7:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal

### **Friday, April 24**

### **Saturday, April 25**

### **Sunday, April 26**

8:15 AM Worship In-Person  
9:30 AM Pray & Grow  
11:00 AM Worship In-Person, Facebook &  
YouTube  
12:15 PM Vocal Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 PM NA Meeting  
7:00 PM Confirmation Class



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.