

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "



Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023
at 8:15 AM & 11:00 AM
ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten

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 11:00am worship service is 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 on the tables in the Narthex. You are also welcome to still sign in on the hard copy on the table in the Narthex.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"O Lamb of God Most Holy"

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Holy God,

ALL: we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

ALL: Amen.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.</p> | <p>3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.</p> |
| <p>2 Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.</p> | <p>4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light.</p> |

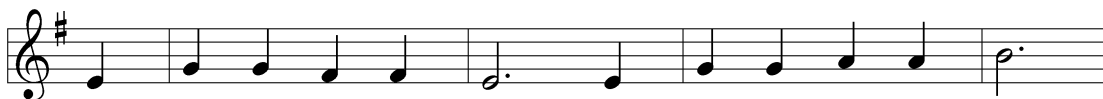
Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt All rights reserved .Used by Permission OneLicense.net #A-711336

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

KYRIE



- | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------|------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Have mer - cy on us, | Lord, | and | hear our sol - emn prayer. |
| 2 | Have mer - cy on us, | Christ, | and | wash a - way our sin. |
| 3 | Have mer - cy on us, | Lord; | make | sin and shame de - part. |



We come to hear your liv - ing Word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

The assembly is seated

WORD

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

FIRST READING:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

Lector: A reading from Samuel

¹The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we

will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

Lector: A reading from Ephesians

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Lector: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL:

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He

answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses."²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes."³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will."³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind."³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated

SERMON

The assembly is invited to stand

APOSTLES' CREED

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation, responding with "receive our prayer".

A brief silence.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve, especially...those we name aloud now...and those we hold in our hearts. Merciful God, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people especially Joseph, Guardian of Jesus. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Pastor: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **ALL: Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The assembly is seated

OFFERING

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING: 8:15: "Meditation"
11:00: "What Wondrous Love Is This"-Handbell Choir

The assembly is invited to stand.

OFFERATORY

1. We place up - on your ta - ble Lord, where you by grace have
2. With in these sim - ple things there lie the height and depth of
3. Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you, we take them hum - bly

bid us dine, these to - kens of our dai - ly
hu - man life: our pain and tears, our thoughts and
from your hand; put these your gifts to high - er

work, the food of life, the bread and wine.
toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
use: the ho - ly meal that you com - mand.

Text: M.F.C. Wilson, 1884-1994, alt. Hymntune: OLD HUNDRETH, arr. Mark Dishong

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

ALL: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



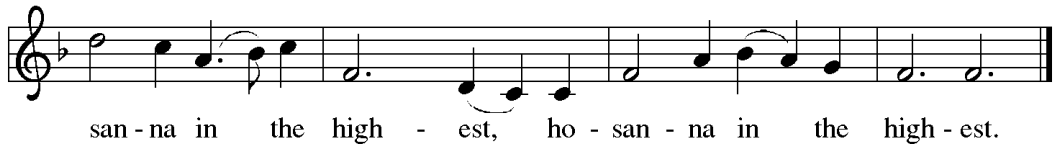
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



Pastor: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **ALL: Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

LAMB OF GOD



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All who are guided by faith to receive the Lord's Supper are welcome at Christ's table. 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, in household groups, under the direction of the usher.** 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. After all have communed the assembly is invited to stand if able.*

TABLE BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.

Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **ALL: Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Pastor: God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you throughout this Lenten season.

ALL: Amen

SENDING HYMN

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

ELW 779

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was bound, but now I'm free. | 4 | The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures. |
| 2 | 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, 5
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed! | 5 | When we've been there ten thousand
years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun. |
| 3 | Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home. | | |

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, Used by Permission OneLicense.net #A-711336.

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve in love.

ALL: Thanks be to God.**POSTLUDE**

“Postlude in G”

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Ruth Morgenroth.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980

Friday, March 24, 2023

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter Tulips, Daffodils and Hyacinths will adorn the chancel for our Easter celebration on April 9. If you would like to sponsor this annual tradition enhancing the beauty of our Sanctuary, please fill out a form and return it to the office by no later than Monday, April 3, 2023. Each flower costs \$9. Checks should be payable to "St. Michael's Lutheran Church." Write Easter Flowers on the envelope and in the check memo. Forms are available in the Narthex and through Constant Contact.

MIDWEEK HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER FOR LENT

Our Midweek Holden Evening Prayer Service can help provide an opportunity to prepare for Lent. We will worship in person as well as stream the services live on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. The service begins at 7:30 on Wednesdays March 1 through April 5, and they will be available afterward for people to worship whenever is convenient. Let us prepare together!

JOSEPH'S HOUSE BREAKFAST CASSEROLES

Joseph's House continues its ministry to feed the homeless in Camden. The next opportunity to provide *BREAKFAST* casseroles is Thursday, March 23, 2023.

To sign-up, Use the SignUp Genius link here: <http://bit.ly/3F5RJoH>

Casseroles can be dropped off at the Elkins Road door between 10:00 AM and 12 Noon. Thank you for your continued generosity during these tough economic times..

EASTER DINNER BAGS

Many thanks to those who signed up to provide "Easter Dinner for Four" . Your generosity will help ease food insecurity during these tough economic times. Feel free to personalize your bag with any of your favorites: holiday napkins, table décor, candles, or other food items. Easter cards are also appreciated. Monetary donations are also welcome. All monetary donations received will be used to purchase a suitable protein to accompany the dinner bags and address food insecurity. Please write "*Easter Meats*" on checks and pew envelopes.

Please return your filled bag or monetary donation by Sunday, April 2nd.

MARTHA CIRCLE MEETING

The next meeting of Martha Circle will be Tuesday, March 21st at 12 Noon in the Social Hall. Vivian Gano's group will be responsible for the luncheon. We will be assembling Easter cards and gift bags for our homebound members to help celebrate Easter. New members are always welcome!

SMLC MISSION FAIR

Join us between and after worship services on Sunday, April 23rd. Meet Committee leaders and learn how you can serve as a part of our faith community. We hope to see everyone there.

CALLING ALL THRIVENT MEMBERS & POLICY HOLDERS

Thrivent Financial is incorporated as a nonprofit and is required to make charitable donations every year. Thrivent members and policy holders can apply for grants on behalf of a charity or nonprofit in which they are a member or volunteer. Last year, Thrivent members applied for and received the following grants for SMLC:

- \$250 grant to buy books for members interested in participating in the Bishop's Book Club Challenge,
- (2) \$250 grants for groceries to supplement our Thanksgiving and Easter food donations to the residents of Lutheran Social Service's homes in Camden
- \$500 challenge grant to further supplement our Thanksgiving food donation
- \$250 grant to purchase supplies for GOD's Work Our Hands "Cherishing Our Elders" project
- \$250 grant which was applied toward the Christmas Luncheon that welcomed new congregation members.

If you are a Thrivent member or policy holder who would like to provide a St. Michael's program or activity with a Thrivent grant, we would love to hear from you. The Church Council is developing a list of projects and programs that could be sponsored, but we would also love to hear your ideas. Please call Ruth Morgenroth (856-261-3463), Kay McConnell (609-781-1070), or Lisa Gess (856-768-3091) if you are an interested Thrivent member or if you would like to find out more about the program.

IHOC MOVIE VIEWING

Thank you to all who participated in the 2023 IHOC Mall Walk! The St. Michael's Team once again raised the most money this year. As a reward, we have won a private movie viewing. On Friday, March 31st at 6:30 PM, we will be viewing *The Champions*. The guest list is currently capped at 25 people. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sydney Misunas by email: sydmisunas@gmail.com or phone: (856) 281-4844 as soon as possible.

FESTIVAL CHOIR INVITATION

Mark Dishong will be continuing the Festival Choir this spring as a seasonal ensemble available to all SMLC members and non-members. It is designed to provide an opportunity for singers whose schedules prevent them from making a yearly commitment to sing in the Adult Choir. The core group of this ensemble will be the Adult Choir; all youth are welcome to join as well. The Festival Choir will sing for Palm/Passion Sunday liturgy on April 2nd at 11:00 AM and Easter liturgy on April 9th at 11:00 AM. Rehearsal dates will be Sundays at 12:00-12:30 PM on March 12, 19, 26 and April 2.

Please contact Mark Dishong at markdishong@gmail.com for more information.

IHOC "ADOPT A BOX"

IHOC will once again be collecting personal care items for adults and children in shelters. The following items are the most requested:

- Soap/Washcloth, Shampoo; Deodorant/Razors; Menstruation Products
- Combs/Brushes; Shaving Cream; Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Hand Towels/Socks

Care items may be placed in shoe boxes or plastic gallon storage bags. Items can be collected at any time before **Friday, March 24, 2023**. *If you have any questions, please reach out to Ruth Morgenroth or Peggy Schlagle. Thank you in advance for your generosity.*

CONFIRMATION CLASS

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

- Sunday, March 19 at 6pm
- Sunday, March 26 at 6pm

If you have any questions about confirmation or are interested in being a presenter for this years program please contact Pastor Chris.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 19

8:15 AM Worship In-Person
9:30 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship In-Person/Facebook/
YouTube
12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM NA Meeting
6:00 PM Confirmation Class

Monday, March 20

Tuesday, March 21

12:00 PM Martha Circle
12:00 PM NA Meeting
6:00 PM Property Meeting
7:30 PM Christian Education Meeting

Wednesday, March 22

9:30 AM Weight Watchers
7:30 PM Mid-Week Lent Service

Thursday, March 23

10:00 AM JH Casserole Drop-off
12:00 PM NA Meeting
7:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 24

12:00 PM NA Meeting

Saturday, March 25

8:00 AM Weight Watchers

Sunday, March 26

8:15 AM Worship In-Person
9:30 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship In-Person/Facebook/
YouTube
12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM NA Meeting
6:00 PM Confirmation Class



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.