

ST. MICHAEL'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' "



and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026 at 8:15 & 11:00 AM

WOV Setting Six

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 11:00 worship service this morning 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

You are welcome to sign in with our 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 tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"A Lenten Meditation"

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.

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity. [☩] one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of [☩] Jesus Christ, your

sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN : *"Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"*

ELW 321

1 Eternal Lord of love, behold your church
 walking once more the pilgrim way of
 Lent,
 led by your cloud by day, by night your
 fire,
 moved by your love and toward your
 presence bent:
 far off yet here—the goal of all desire.

2 So daily dying to the way of self,
 so daily living to your way of love,
 we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you
 trod,

3 knowing ourselves baptized into your
 death:
 so we are dead and live with you in God.

3 If dead in you, so in you we arise,
 you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;
 and as through stony ground the green
 shoots break,
 glorious in springtime dress of leaf and
 flow'r,
 so into life and glory shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, b. 1931-2003. Text © Thomas H. Cain. 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

"Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved"

ELW 602



Otče nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.

1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



nás hrieš - nych hne - vás, sved - či o tom smrt'
e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
that your word has made. Now make us grow and



ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

Text: Jiří Trnovský, 1591-1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919. Tr. © 1970 Concordia Publishing House Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

A reading from Romans.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's

trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification.¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

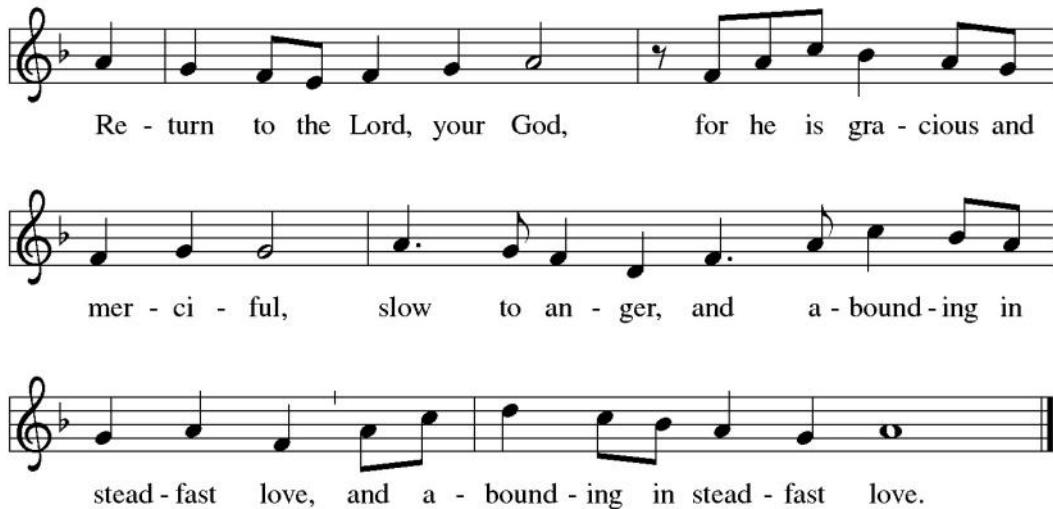
¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL:

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

Matthew 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted

forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished.³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory,⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“When We Are Tested”

ACS 922

1 When we are tested and wrestle
alone,
famished for bread when the world
offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and
your way,
food that sustains us by night and
by day.

2 When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by
certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and
test,
trusting your presence, our only true
rest.

3	When we are tempted to barter our souls, trading the truth for the pow'r to control, teach us to worship and praise only you, seeking your will in the work that we do.	4	When we have struggled and searched through the night, sorting and sifting the wrong from the right, Savior, surround us with circles of care, angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.
---	--	---	--

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947. Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. 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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. responding with "Your mercy is great".

A brief silence.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated.

Especially...those we name aloud...and those we hold in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

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: "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

11:00: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

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.

OFFERATORY*"Create In Me A Clean Heart"*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Music: FRANCK, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, 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'r and might,



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



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



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



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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:

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

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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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.
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.

DISTRIBUTION 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. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

LAMB OF GOD

1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of
2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of
3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of

all the world a - way; you
all the world a - way; you
all the world a - way; e -

suf - fered death our lives to save; have
 set us free from guilt and grave; have
 - ter - nal peace with God you made; give

mer - ey now, we pray.
 mer - ey now, we pray.
 us your peace we pray.

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Thy Holy Wings”

ELW 613

1 Thy holy wings, O Savior,
 spread gently over me,
 and let me rest securely
 through good and ill in thee.
 Oh, be my strength and portion,
 my rock and hiding place,
 and let my ev'ry moment
 be lived within thy grace.

2 Oh, let me nestle near thee,
 within thy downy breast
 where I will find sweet comfort
 and peace within thy nest.

3 Oh, close thy wings around me
 and keep me safely there,
 for I am but a newborn
 and need thy tender care.

3 Oh, wash me in the waters
 of Noah's cleansing flood.
 Give me a willing spirit,
 a heart both clean and good.
 Oh, take into thy keeping
 thy children great and small,
 and while we sweetly slumber,
 enfold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite. Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent. www.selahpub.com Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

After all have communed the assembly is invited to stand.

TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen.

POST COMMUNION HYMN*“On My Heart, Imprint Your Image”*

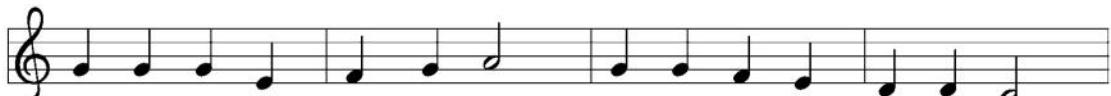
ELW 811



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. Strömme, 1856-1921, alt. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, \ddagger bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN*“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”*

ELW 618

- 1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE*“A Mighty Fortress”*

The Eternal Candle is given by The Billet Family in honor of Adam Billet’s 18th birthday.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Monday, February 23, 2026

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

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

- Sunday, March 1
- Sunday, March 15

All classes start at 7:00 PM. If you have any questions about confirmation or are interested in being a presenter for this years 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:

- **Pray & Grow** (K-5th grade) will meet on 2/22
- **Faith in Conversation** (All Adults) will meet on 3/1
- **MichaeLights** (6-12th grade) will meet on 3/8
- **Little Ones & Loved Ones** (birth to 4/years) will meet on 3/22

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

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.

IHOC ADOPT A BOX COLLECTION

IHOC is collecting personal care items for adults and children in shelters. You can help by filling a shoe box or plastic gallon bag with personal care items (soap, wash cloths, deodorant, razor, shampoo, conditioner, menstruation products, toothbrush and toothpaste, lotion). **Hotel/travel sized products are especially appreciated.** Boxes and bags can be dropped off in the narthex by March 15th. Please label your box/bag as male, female, gender neutral, child, or infant.

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 also welcomed to join this music ministry. Festival Choir will sing for the Palm/Passion Sunday liturgy, March 29 at 11:00am and Easter liturgy, April 5 at 11:00am. Festival Choir Rehearsals dates are Sundays (12:00-12:45 p.m.) February 15, 22, March 1, 15, 22, and 29. *To find out more information about the Festival Choir please contact Mark Dishong at markdishong@gmail.com.*

JOSEPH'S HOUSE BREAKFAST CASSEROLES

The next opportunity to provide BREAKFAST casseroles will be **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 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/4qPgPxf>

EASTER DINNER BAGS FOR LSM

The Social Outreach Committee is asking our congregation to provide Easter dinner for fifty families in Lutheran Social Ministries' North Camden Affordable Housing Program. Fifty Wegmans' bags are in the Narthex. Please take a bag, and sign up on the sheet that corresponds to the color tag you have chosen. As always, feel free to personalize your bag with holiday napkins, décor, or cards. Please return your filled bags by Sunday, March 22, 2026. Monetary donations are also welcome, and will be used to purchase suitable proteins to accompany the dinner bags. Please write "Easter Meats" on checks and pew envelopes. All donations must be received by Sunday, March 22, 2026.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Join us every Wednesday evening during Lent, (February 25 through April 1) as we gather for Holden Evening Prayer at 7:30 PM. Holden Evening Prayer Services will also be streamed live on Facebook and YouTube.

BOOK CLUB

Join the SMLC Book Club for a discussion on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:00pm. We will be discussing *The Dream Daughter* by Diane Chamberlain. All are welcome to join us—all you need is a love of reading.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Did you know the Parish Fellowship committee holds events for SMLC throughout the year? You're invited to join the fun on Sunday, March 1st at 9:30am when we brainstorm ideas, enjoy each other's company and share snacks. All are welcome! Please bring your ideas, whether they are old favorites or new concepts! Contact Karen Roorda or any Parish Fellowship member with questions.

LSM FOOD PANTRY

The next pick-up for the Lutheran Social Ministries Food Pantry will be Wednesday, February 25. Please bring any items for donation by February 24. Contact the office with any questions.

MONTHLY PRAYER SERVICE

Start the new month off on the right foot. Join us on Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00 AM for our monthly prayer service.

FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE SUNDAY

Stop by the narthex after both worship services on Sunday, March 1 for coffee and treats. Catch up with friends and make new ones. All are welcome.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

The church office will be closed from Monday, March 9 through Thursday, March 12. In the event of an emergency, please contact Pastor Chris. Anything else will be handled upon the office's re-opening on Friday, March 13. Thank you for understanding.

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter Tulips, Daffodils and Hyacinths will adorn the chancel for our Easter celebration on April 5th. If you would like to sponsor the beauty of our Sanctuary, please fill out a form and return it to the office by no later than Sunday, March 29th. Each flower costs \$12. 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.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 22

IHOC Mall Walk

8:15 AM Worship In-Person

9:30 AM Pray & Grow

11:00 AM Worship In-Person, Facebook,
YouTube

12:00 PM Vocal Choir Rehearsal

12:30 PM ROOTS class

6:00 PM NA Meeting

Monday, February 23

Tuesday, February 24

Wednesday, February 25

LSM Food Pantry Pick-up

9:30 AM Weight Watchers Meeting

7:30 PM Mid-Week Lent Service

Thursday, February 26

10:00 AM JH Casserole Drop-off

7:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 27

Saturday, February 28

Sunday, March 1

Fellowship & Coffee Sunday

8:15 AM Worship In-Person

9:30 AM Faith in Conversation

9:30 AM Parish Fellowship Meeting

11:00 AM Worship In-Person, Facebook,
YouTube

12:00 PM Vocal Choir Rehearsal

6:00 PM NA Meeting

7:00 PM Confirmation Class



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.