

# ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

---

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

---

<sup>16</sup> *"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,*

<sup>17</sup> *'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'*

<sup>18</sup> *"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."*

<sup>25</sup> *At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because*



*you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

<sup>28</sup> *"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

## **The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

*The Semiquincentennial of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence*

July 05, 2026 at 10:00AM

*ELW Setting 8*

## **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 service at 10:00 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 at the iPad in the Narthex.



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

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

*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 Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

*The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

*"God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"*

### **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**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

**Amen.**

Let us bring every burden to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all mercy,

**we have sinned against you,  
our neighbors, and your creation.**

**Within ourselves and our communities,  
our desire to do what is good  
is at war with the evil that dwells in us.**

**We lament the evil that holds us captive.**

**We repent of the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Rescue us, forgive us,  
and restore us for lives of compassion and courage  
through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All-merciful, Almighty God

forgive you all your sins through the grace of + Jesus Christ,  
and by the Spirit's power strengthen you  
in doing what is good.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

### “Let Freedom Ring”

1. Let free - dom ring, O Lord, 'til all in  
2. Help us, O Lord, op-pose free - dom's most  
3. Lord, grant us cour - age now to keep this

one ac - cord find lib - er - ty.  
ar - dent foes. Lord, help us stand!  
sa - cred vow. Your praise we sing.

Loose all the chains that bind; let none be  
We'll march for what is right, and trust you  
We plant our feet on sod where bless - ed

left be - hind; give strength to heart and mind,  
through the night to see by morn - ing's light  
saints have trod. We cry to our great God:

and your let make us free.  
prom - ised land.  
free - dom ring!

*Text: Text: W. Michael Fortson, b.1955; 2018; Music: Henry Carey, ca.1685–174; © 2021 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. 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*

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for  
 hun - gry and the poor; that  
 friends and fam - i - ly; for  
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
 we may live out . . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
 life and for love, . . . . . for our work and our play,  
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

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

## FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from Zechariah

- <sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
See, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- <sup>10</sup> He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- <sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
- <sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from Romans

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!


So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

## **GOSPEL:**

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

## **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup> “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup> “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

## HOMILY

### HYMN OF THE DAY

“How Firm a Foundation”

ELW 796

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,<br>is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the<br>Word!<br>What more can he say than to you he has<br>said<br>who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?          | 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway<br>shall lie,<br>my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.<br>The flames shall not hurt you; I only design<br>your dross to consume and your gold to<br>refine."           |
| 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not<br>dismayed,<br>for I am your God and will still give you aid;<br>I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you<br>to stand,<br>upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand." | 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people<br>shall prove<br>my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;<br>and then, when gray hairs shall their<br>temples adorn,<br>like lambs they shall still in my bosom be<br>borne." |

*Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.*

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

### APOSTLES' CREED

**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 INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the nations, and all of creation, responding with, "hear our prayer".

*A brief silence.*

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the

western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially...those we name aloud now...and those we hold in our hearts. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our 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**

“Meditation on MELITA”

*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.*

The assembly is invited to stand.

## OFFERTORY

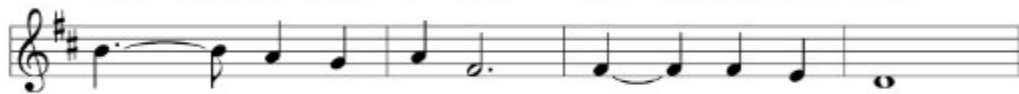
"What Have We to Offer?"



1 What have we to of - fer?      What have we to share?  
2 What have we to of - fer?      What have we to bring?  
3 What have we to of - fer?      What have we to give?



Coins from the cof - fer,      hearts filled with care.  
Love, ripe with laugh - ter;      hope that we can sing;  
Eyes that are wide o - pen;      lies that we won't live;



God will not fal - ter;      so let us dare  
dreams of what we're af - ter;      prom - is - es of when.  
truth that must be spo - ken;      jus - tice some - how.



lay it at the al - tar      there.  
Lay it at the al - tar      then.  
Lay it at the al - tar      now.



4 What have we to of - fer?      What have we to



give?      Lives      we will live.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

## DIALOGUE

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up 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, 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are Majesty, you alone are Excellency, you alone are Sovereign.

Within the vast reaches you splashed into being, you formed our star and this planet: purple mountains, fruited plains, crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines. Here you fashioned

human beings in our infinite variety and hue, yet each one created equal, to care for one another and our earthly home.

In a time of peace enforced by the cruelty of empire, you came in Jesus to share our life. Born under the rule of a merciless king, Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God. Moving across borders to people broken and oppressed, Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

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.

Remembering, therefore, Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime, Christ's resurrection that buries death, Christ's ascension to rule with love forever, we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

God, shed your grace on us. Shower your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on your people gathered this day. Ignite in us the flame of freedom— 6 freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear; freedom for acceptance, for welcome, for the *shalom* that you have first shown to us.

Faithful God, loving God: Your Majesty shines forth in weakness. Your Excellency is revealed to infants. Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross. Yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the everlasting kingdom, the peaceable power, and the humble glory, 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. At the 8:15 service Communion will be distributed at the altar rail. At the 10:00 service 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". Worshipers who are not yet communing are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste and know that God is good to all.

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

*The assembly is seated.*

### COMMUNION HYMNS:

*"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 blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

*Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 In Christ there is no east or west,<br>in him no south or north,<br>but one community of love<br>throughout the whole wide earth.  | 3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,<br>whate'er your race may be.<br>All children of the living God<br>are surely kin to me.                    |
| 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere<br>their high communion find;<br>his service is the golden cord<br>close binding humankind. | 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,<br>in him meet south and north;<br>all Christly souls are one in him<br>throughout the whole wide earth. |

*Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.*

*After all have communed 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**

☒ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks-



**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, + one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

“May We Be Free”

1. May we be free, all peo - ples, tribes, and  
 2. May we be free, pur - su - ing trans - for -  
 na - tions, as some have dreamed but  
 ma - tion till bi - as, greed, and  
 none have yet a - chieved. May we ful -  
 ex - ploi - ta - tion cease. May we re -  
 fill the hopes of gen - er - a - tions  
 pent, en - gage in rep - a - ra - tion,

with strength and will to live what they be -  
 join in la - ment, and strug - gle for re -  
 lieved. May we be free, our  
 lease. May we be free, as  
 longed-for lib - er - a - tions grown from the  
 fresh im - ag - i - na - tion helps us make  
 seeds of all who fought and grieved.  
 real a just and last - ing peace.

*Text: Hannah C. Brown Text © 2024 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336; Music: Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957; FINLANDIA, public domain.*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

ELW 888

*Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859-1929*

*The Eternal Candle is given Tom and Vivian Gano in memory of Curtis Floyd Gano, on the 39th anniversary of his death.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 O beautiful for spacious skies,<br/>         for amber waves of grain,<br/>         for purple mountain majesties<br/>         above the fruited plain:<br/>         America! America!<br/>         God shed his grace on thee,<br/>         and crown thy good with brotherhood<br/>         from sea to shining sea.</p> | <p>2 O beautiful for heroes proved<br/>         in liberating strife,<br/>         who more than self their country loved,<br/>         and mercy more than life:<br/>         America! America!<br/>         May God thy gold refine,<br/>         till all success be nobleness,<br/>         and ev'ry gain divine.</p> |
|---|--|

- 3 O beautiful for patriot dream  
that sees beyond the years  
thine alabaster cities gleam,  
undimmed by human tears:  
America! America!  
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,  
confirm thy soul in self-control,  
thy liberty in law.

### **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

#### **Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415**

Monday, July 6, 2026

Hus was a Bohemian (present-day Czech Republic) priest who spoke against abuses in the church, and was seen by Martin Luther as his predecessor in the reforming movement. He was found guilty of heresy by a council of the church, and burned at the stake.

#### **Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540**

Saturday, July 11, 2026

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit, and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

### **CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **ETERNAL CANDLE DEDICATIONS**

A sign-up sheet for dedications is now up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Each dedication costs \$10; please submit dedications to the office two weeks prior to the dedication date. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

#### **SUMMER PAUSE**

Our Wednesday Bible study will take a break for the summer months, it will resume on September 2 at 11 AM and 6 PM. Stitching Sisters will also pause for July and August. They will meet again on September 10 at 11 AM.

#### **SUMMER FINANCES**

Summer invites rest and renewal, while our shared ministry continues. Summer also results in less regular attendance and giving. You can keep our mission strong by giving early, enrolling in automatic giving through ChurchTrac, or prayerfully increasing your generosity by just 0.5% of household income. Together, small, steady commitments become abundant grace, sustaining welcome, justice, and joy for all who gather and serve.

### **JOSEPH'S HOUSE DINNER CASSEROLES**

SMLC continues to support Joseph's House in Camden with their mission to feed the homeless. The next opportunity to volunteer to make DINNER casseroles will be SUNDAY, July 12, 2026. Casseroles can be dropped off to the church kitchen before or after Sunday worship services. Please mark your casserole as BEEF or TURKEY. This will assist the staff serving to meet any dietary needs for the dinner guests.

Use this link to sign-up: <https://smlc.churchtrac.com/connect?ei=K1V79YG>

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at Joseph's House on the second Tuesday of each month. We will meet at church at 4:45pm (Dinner is served at 6:00pm) and return around 8:00pm. You can also drive yourself and meet at Joseph's House at 5:15pm. If you would like to serve, please contact Ray Kratz by phone (609-923-5718) or email ([raykratz@gmail.com](mailto:raykratz@gmail.com)).

### **BOOK CLUB**

Book Club is stepping out of our reading comfort zone to enjoy a movie night here at St. Michaels. We will view the movie "Book Club" in the newly air-conditioned Social Hall. All of St. Michaels family is welcome to join us at 7:00. See you there!

### **FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS**

What is Christian Nationalism? What is the difference between Patriotism and Nationalism? Why is Christian Nationalism dangerous to the Nation and to the Church? Our Social Justice & Advocacy Team will host a presentation and discussion to help us understand the impact of this ideology. Join is on Wednesday, July 15th at 6:00 pm in the Social Hall for "Confronting the Sin of Christian Nationalism". Sandwiches and snacks will be provided.

### **KARAOKE NIGHT**

The Reconciling Works Core Team invites everyone to an evening of music, laughter, and fellowship on July 18 from 7–9pm in the Social Hall! Enjoy light refreshments, connect with old friends, meet new ones, and celebrate the joy of being together in a welcoming and affirming community. Whether you're ready to grab the microphone, sing with friends, or simply relax and cheer on others, there's a place for you. No experience—and absolutely no pressure—required!

### **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS DAY**

Save The Date! On September 13<sup>th</sup>, please join a hands-on inter-generational project to support The Ronald McDonald House program. Our congregation volunteers will donate needed items for 3 projects. We will provide "Snack Bags," for children and adults staying at the RMH located in Camden NJ. We will also provide "Welcome Packs" and "Cleaning Packs" for the families. Our work session will begin with a light lunch at 12 Noon in the social hall. Look for sign up information in the coming months. All ages and abilities are welcome to join in! Contact Kay McConnell (609-781-1070) with questions.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

**St. Michael's Members:** Kathleen Abrams, Walt Flores, Kathy Henry, Jo-Ann Guenther, Beverly Kovac, Dottie Leonard, Bill Lowery, Mary Beth Neilson, Joan Pearl, Carolyn Peterson, Paul Phillips, Megan Quaile, William Schafer, Bill Scheufele, Barbara Scheufele, Deborah Searles, Bev Stropes, Charlotte Sturts, Chris Tressel, Cathy Verme, John Winkelman, Ron Winkelman, Pat Wolbert, Holly Zahradnick

**Prayer Requests for Family & Friends:** Kathleen Abrams for Ashley & Michael Rubinsky, Cynthia Barth for Dick Perry, Penny Perry, Anne Matthews, The Benninghoffs for Clare Juliano, Trudy Carr for Carol Storz, Anne Cassidy for Donna, Megan, Mádei, and Chris, The Clemsons for Carol Cornell, Margie Clemson and Cindy Branch, Laura Dishong for Wendy and Glenn Harris, Terri Erickson for Pete Boyle and his family, The Fergusons for Estelle & Paul Debbane, Linda Ferguson, Lew Gorman III for Mary Jane, June Greiser for Chris Bukowski and Beth Bukowski, The Gromens for Jill Gromen, Donna Lowry, Evan Gromen, George Wright, Alec Gromen, Dottie Seacrist, Kathy Tulley, Joan Barbagiovani, Kathleen Wright Kelly, Bethann Guenther for Rowan, Bethann Guenther-Misunas for Diane Dampen, The Hammers for Erin Terreri, Sherrie Orzio, Kristin Streater, Patrick McNamara, Joe LaRose for Helen, Dottie Leonard for Aiden Longstreth, The McConnell family for Donna Riker, Mary Beth Neilson for Janet Dobbs, & Justin Loughry, Anne Picker, Robin Argoe, Dennis Kiley, William Gentner, David Kessler, The Patons for John A, Donna K, Sunil, Kay K., Betty D., Joan Pearl for Vicki Bottoms, Carolyn Peterson for Tracey Femiano, Nancy Perks, Carol Prisco for Helen James, Dave Young, Paula Young, Arlene Schmit, Bob and Lisa Kelley, Rosemary Restock, Marion Rice for Sharon, Roorda's for Roy Fennimore, Becky Sahlman for Bo Ingesson, The Shaw Family for Shirley Shaw, The Solis Family for Sarena Bañas, Janet Spooner for Pam Spooner, Janet Thompson for Julie Medeiros & Zachary, Cynthia Tjoa for Ping-An Tjoa, Chris Tressel for Joan Atcheson, Denise Wallace for Pat Griggs, John Winkelman for Guy and Jeanette Mougel, Pat Wolbert for Sandi Ploucher, Allyson Zinman for Carla R, Millie W , Holly Zahradnick for Deb Asher, William McDevitt, Michael Zahradnick

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

<u>July 5</u> 8:15 AM	<u>July 5</u> 10:00AM	<u>July 12</u> 8:15 AM	<u>July 12</u> 10:00AM	<u>Tellers</u> (Week of July 12)
<b>A. Minister</b> Karen Roorda	<b>A. Minister</b> Kelly Daly	<b>A. Minister</b> Reid Hobson	<b>A. Minister</b> Ruth Morgenroth	Lauren Gromen Tom Gano Jim Clemson
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Lector</b> John Winkelman	<b>Lector</b> Jennifer Winchester	<b>Lector</b> Valerie Lee	
<b>C. Assistant</b> Vivian Gano	<b>C. Assistant</b> John Winkelman	<b>C. Assistant</b> Trudy Carr	<b>C. Assistant</b> Linda David	<b>Altar guild</b> (July 5 & 12) Vivian Gano Kelly Daly
<b>Ushers</b> Charles Kern	<b>Ushers</b> Martha Burke Peggy Schlagle	<b>Ushers</b> Lauren Gromen	<b>Ushers</b> Sam Cook Rebecca Shaw	
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Acolyte</b> Sara Shaw	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Acolyte</b> Oliver Bruesehoff	
	<b>Video Tech</b> Kim Billet		<b>Video Tech</b> Tim Cook	

## PARISH CALENDAR

### Sunday, July 5

8:15 AM Worship Service (In-Person)  
9:00 AM Fellowship & Coffee  
10:00 AM Worship Service (In-Person,  
Facebook, YouTube)  
11:00 AM Fellowship & Coffee  
6:00 PM NA Meeting

### Monday, July 6

### Tuesday, July 7

### Wednesday, July 8

9:30 AM Weight Watchers Meeting

### Thursday, July 9

### Friday, July 10

### Saturday, July 11

### Sunday, July 12

8:15 AM Worship Service (In-Person)  
10:00 AM Worship Service (In-Person,  
Facebook, YouTube)  
6:00 PM NA Meeting



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.