

Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 2020

Lent Midweek #4

# Home-Based Worship



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## **A NOTE ABOUT THIS EVENING’S HOME-BASED WORSHIP:**

This evening’s worship service is designed to be used in your home since we are unable to worship together corporately due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am personally deeply saddened by this as I know you are too. We will continue to provide Home-Based Worship bulletins in place of each in-person worship service that has had to be cancelled. For now, all church activities through Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> are cancelled. We will make a determination about our activities that are scheduled for after April 3<sup>rd</sup> as things continue to develop. Our aim is to return to a normal schedule of corporate worship and church activities as soon as it is possible according to Godly wisdom, concern for our vulnerable neighbors, and respect for our civil authorities.

The Home-Based Worship approach seeks to equip our members to have services led by the head of their household or done individually if you reside in a household of one.

This evening’s service continues our Lent Midweek Series “Eyes on Jesus.”

For the responsive readings, if this service is being used with a family, the head of the household would speak the portions marked with a **L** for leader, and entire family together would speak the sections marked with a **C**.

If this service is being used by one person individually, the individual will read all the sections themselves. I would still urge you to read the printed words aloud which may seem strange, but helps the words to truly sink in.

Beginning with this service, a written sermon will be included with each service for you to read in your home.

May God bless you and swiftly bring about the time when we are able to resume our corporate worship!

-Pastor Nate Hill

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### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Saint Michael’s Lutheran Church exists to worship God, love one another, and serve all people according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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# Lent Midweek Service

## #4

### Murderous Eyes

Hymn of Invocation

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

LSB #437

*The hymn may either be sung or read aloud according to your preference.*



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And  
2 Was it for crimes that I had done He  
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And  
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While  
5 But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay The



did my sov - 'reign die? Would He de - vote that  
groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y,  
shut his glo - ries in When God, the might - y  
His dear cross ap - pears, Dis - solve my heart in  
debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -



sa - cred head For such a worm as I?  
grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!  
mak - er, died For His own crea - tures' sin.  
thank - ful - ness, And melt mine eyes to tears.  
self a - way: 'Tis all that I can do.

**L** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

**L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

+ Psalmody +

**Psalm**

Psalm 10:1–12; antiphon: v. 12

**L** Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand;  
forget not the afflicted.

**C** **Why, O LORD, do You stand afar off?  
Why do You hide yourself in times of trouble?**

**L** In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;  
let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.

**C** **For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,  
and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.  
In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek Him;  
all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”**

**L** His ways prosper at all times;  
Your judgments are on high, out of his sight;  
as for all his foes, he puffs at them.

**C** **He says in his heart, “I shall not be moved;  
throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity.”**

**L** His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;  
under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.

**C** **He sits in ambush in the villages;  
in hiding places he murders the innocent.  
His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;**

**L** he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;  
he lurks that he may seize the poor;  
he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.

**C** **The helpless are crushed,  
sink down, and fall by his might.**

**L** He says in his heart, “God has forgotten,  
He has hidden His face, He will never see it.”

**C** ***Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

**L** Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand;  
forget not the afflicted.

*The hymn may either be sung or read aloud according to your preference.*



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed See, world, your  
 2 Come, see these things and pon - der, Your soul will  
 3 Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so  
 4 I caused Your grief and sigh - ing By e - vils



Lord sus - pend - ed. Your Sav - ior yields His breath.  
 fill with won - der As blood streams from each pore.  
 sore a - bused You And caused You all Your woe?  
 mul - ti - ply - ing As count - less as the sands.



The Prince of Life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly  
 Through grief be - yond all know - ing From His great heart came  
 We all must make con - fes - sion Of sin and dire trans -  
 I caused the woes un - num - bered With which Your soul is



giv - en To shame and blows and bit - ter death.  
 flow - ing Sighs well - ing from its deep - est core.  
 gres - sion While You no ways of e - vil know.  
 cum - bered, Your sor - rows raised by wick - ed hands.

- 5 Your soul in griefs unbounded,  
 Your head with thorns surrounded,  
 You died to ransom me.  
 The cross for me enduring,  
 The crown for me securing,  
 You healed my wounds and set me free.
- 6 Your cords of love, my Savior,  
 Bind me to You forever,  
 I am no longer mine.  
 To You I gladly tender

All that my life can render  
And all I have to You resign.

- 7 Your cross I place before me;  
Its saving pow'r restore me,  
Sustain me in the test.  
It will, when life is ending,  
Be guiding and attending  
My way to Your eternal rest.

**+ Readings +**

**Reading**

Job 24:13–17

**L** A reading from Job, chapter 24.

- <sup>13</sup>“There are those who rebel against the light,  
who are not acquainted with its ways,  
and do not stay in its paths.  
<sup>14</sup>The murderer rises before it is light,  
that he may kill the poor and needy,  
and in the night he is like a thief.  
<sup>15</sup>The eye of the adulterer also waits for the twilight,  
saying, ‘No eye will see me’;  
and he veils his face.  
<sup>16</sup>In the dark they dig through houses;  
by day they shut themselves up;  
they do not know the light.  
<sup>17</sup>For deep darkness is morning to all of them;  
for they are friends with the terrors of deep darkness.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Reading**

1 John 3:11–15

**L** A reading from 1 John, chapter 3.

<sup>11</sup>For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. <sup>12</sup>We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. <sup>13</sup>Do not be surprised, brothers, that the

world hates you. <sup>14</sup>We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. <sup>15</sup>Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Reading

Matthew 23:29–36

**L** A reading from Matthew, chapter 23.

<sup>29</sup>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ <sup>31</sup>Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. <sup>32</sup>Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. <sup>33</sup>You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? <sup>34</sup>Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, <sup>35</sup>so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. <sup>36</sup>Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Reading

Mark 14:1, 53–65

**L** A reading from Mark, chapter 14.

<sup>1</sup>It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him,

<sup>53</sup>And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. <sup>54</sup>And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. <sup>55</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. <sup>56</sup>For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. <sup>57</sup>And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, <sup>58</sup>“We heard him say, ‘I

will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.”<sup>59</sup> Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.<sup>60</sup> And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”<sup>61</sup> But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”<sup>62</sup> And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”<sup>63</sup> And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need?”<sup>64</sup> You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death.<sup>65</sup> And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” And the guards received him with blows.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Hymn

### “Our Eyes Behold the Savior’s Face”

*The hymn may either be sung or read aloud according to your preference.*

1 Our eyes be - hold the Sav - ior's face And yet can - not per - ceive  
 2 Our fo - cus flits and fails to see The One whose stead - fast gaze  
 3 Our sights train on the dread - ful cross. Be - neath His know - ing eyes,  
 4 Our vi - sion blurs with anx - ious tears As Je - sus' eye - lids fall  
 5 Our view scans for the com - ing Day That ev - er - more grows near,

That His per - spec - tive held our grace Be - fore we could be - lieve.  
 Pro - pelled Him to the dark - ened tree En - vel - oped in death's haze.  
 Our sins are bare and set for loss; He sees us as His prize.  
 To con - quer sin and all our fears And tear in two our pall.  
 When Je - sus wipes our tears a - way And all is crys - tal clear.

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We all know the phrase: “If looks could kill.” But, can you picture eyes filled with rage? Likely you’ve seen it in the eyes of another; perhaps you’ve seen it on your own face through an ill-timed glance in the mirror. In the ancient world and still today in some cultures, the “evil eye” is a glance that is thought to cause harm to the recipient. That’s how we can envision the eyes of the chief priests and scribes, the Sadducees and Pharisees, as they plotted Jesus’ death in tonight’s Passion Reading. They were filled with hatred and murder as they gazed upon Jesus being greeted with praise in Jerusalem during Holy Week, and before that, when face-to-face with Jesus, they heard Him speak woes and reproaches to them. If they could have spewed venom or shot arrows from their eyes at the Lord, they would have.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!” said Jesus (Matthew 23:29), no doubt with a rather stern, fatherly look. This rhetoric wouldn’t fit in with Dale Carnegie’s advice given in his 1936 bestseller *How to Win Friends and Influence People*. But it was what they needed to hear, so those words were spoken in love, just as a father disciplines a child. God and His representatives never speak the Law to us in hatred, but only because we need to recognize our sin and know what to repent of.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!” said Jesus. “For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers” (Matthew 23:29–32).

Jesus wanted them to recognize their hypocrisy and repent. So He mockingly says, “Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers” to bring them face-to-face with the murder that lay in their hearts under their pious pretenses of honoring the murdered prophets and behind their pious platitudes of “We wouldn’t have done what our fathers did.” But multigenerational guilt is real when the sons of the fathers lack repentance, so Jesus challenges them to push things forward to their logical conclusion: “I know your hearts! I can see the murder in your eyes! Go ahead! Walk in the steps of your fathers! Why don’t you go ahead and kill Me too and continue your family tradition!”

“There is nothing new under the sun,” said the Preacher in Ecclesiastes. Murderous thoughts and looks are as old as the fall into sin. Cain’s downcast eyes became murderous toward his brother. The cause of murder is always the choice of man, but the original source is the devil, who, Jesus says, was a liar and murderer from the beginning. St. John says that the murderer Cain “was of the evil one” (1 John 3:12). In addressing the Jews who wanted to kill Him, Jesus identifies Satan as the father of all who hate God’s Son.

But how does that pertain to us? Aren't John and Jesus just railing against Cain and the murderous Jews? Surely the Lord's not talking to us pious Christians, is He? But listen to His Word. His apostle St. John writes, "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him" (1 John 3:15). And a bit later, "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen" (4:20). Follow the logic. If I claim to love God while hating my brother, I am both a murderer and a liar and cannot love God, and if I don't love Him, then I must hate Him. Looks like Cain and the hostile Jews and all of us are in the same boat.

Don't lie to yourself. You have said in your heart, "I have reasons for hating my boss. I can make excuses for wishing that my brother were dead. I have good cause for casting an evil eye upon my neighbor." That's enough to make you a murderer in God's sight and place you under His wrath. The Jews filled up the measure of their fathers in tonight's Passion Reading, and if we're honest with ourselves, we must see ourselves right along with them.

What a marvel, then, that the Father would allow His Son to be murdered at the hands of sinful men, just to save a bunch of rotten, rebellious sinners with eyes filled with rage against God and man. "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God" (Romans 5:8–9).

The wrath of God is not a murderous glance from the Father, but a look of righteous judgment upon the guilt of sin. We all deserve God's wrath, but instead of giving us what we deserved, God put it on Jesus, and Jesus willingly took it, for us men and for our salvation.

From the cross, Jesus looked upon the masses of humanity and said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Original sin, which produces lies, hatred, murder, and every other sin, is so deep a corruption that we cannot recognize the depravity of what we think, say, and do unless it is revealed by God's Word. But once our murderous eyes have looked in horror on what we really have done—nailing the innocent Son of God to the tree with our sins—then we also are ready for the joyful Good News of the forgiveness of all of our sins for the sake of Christ's voluntary sacrifice at the hands of murderers, the death by which He has extinguished the wrath of God toward us. "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation" (Romans 5:10–11). So rejoice in Christ, who has turned your murderous eyes away from sin, guilt, and despair and lifted them up to look upon Himself as your Savior. Amen.

+ Canticle +

**Magnificat**

*“My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”*

LSB #934

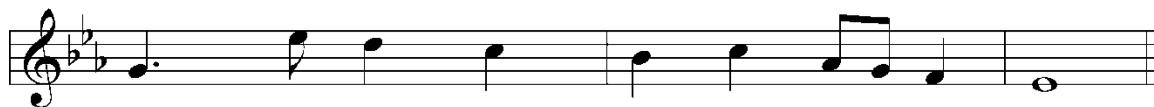
*The hymn may either be sung or read aloud according to your preference.*



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters  
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -  
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like  
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -  
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.  
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

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**Offering**

*Please consider making your regular tithe or offering online at  
[www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give](http://www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give) or by mailing a check to Saint Michael's  
Lutheran Church, 700 Frio Street, Winchester, TX 78945.*

+ Prayer +

**Kyrie**

**☩ Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

## 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.**

### Collects

- L** O Lord, hear my prayer.  
**☩ And let my cry come to You.**

### Collect of the Day

- L** Lord Jesus Christ, we often have gazed with murderous hatred upon our fellow man. Look upon us with favor, forgive all our sins, and replace all hatred in our hearts with love for You and our neighbor; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**☩ Amen.**

### Collect for Lent

- L** Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**☩ Amen.**

## Collect

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, You released many from their bondage to sin, death, and the devil as the healer of the nations. But when it came time to release You, the crowd chose a murderer instead. Through our co-crucifixion with You in the waters of our Baptism, may we continually be released from our sins as we confess You to be our everlasting King; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Collect for Peace

**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Benedicamus

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction

**L** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**C Amen.**

# Hymn to Depart "God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven"

LSB #877

*The hymn may either be sung or read aloud according to your preference.*



1 God, who made the earth and heav - en, Dark - ness and light:  
2 And when morn a - gain shall call us To run life's way,  
3 Guard us wak - ing, guard us sleep - ing, And when we die,  
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, throned in heav - en, All - ho - ly Son,



You the day for work have giv - en, For rest the night. May Your  
May we still, what - e'er be - fall us, Your will o - bey. From the  
May we in Your might - y keep - ing All peace - ful lie. When the  
Ho - ly Spir - it, free - ly giv - en, Blest Three in One: Grant us



an - gel guards de - fend us, Slum - ber sweet Your mer - cy send us,  
pow'r of e - vil hide us, In the nar - row path - way guide us,  
last dread call shall wake us, Then, O Lord, do not for - sake us,  
grace, we now im - plore You, Till we lay our crowns be - fore You



Ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us All through the night.  
Nev - er be Your smile de - nied us All through the day.  
But to reign in glo - ry take us With You on high.  
And in wor - thier strains a - dore You While a - ges run.

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## **PRAYERS AT SAINT MICHAEL'S**

### **MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:**

- Lydia Amaro
- Marie Ashutabi
- Don Buck
- Sherry Cook
- Charlene Franke
- Gillian Franke
- RC Franke
- Marian Fritsche
- Irma Gersch
- Delores Karisch
- Morgan Ray Karisch
- Thelma Kieschnik
- C.W. Kasper
- Bea Kilian
- Marie Kilian
- Audrey Koenning
- Paige Koudelik-Jones
- Rose Lehmann
- Kenny Lorenz
- Roy Medack
- Jodi Miller
- James Nawara
- Janie Nawara
- Lillian Pietsch
- Raymond Schulz
- Michelle Smith
- Kenneth Watts
- Adele Wilson
- Thelma Zoch

### **GRIEVING:**

- The family of Pat (Nanita) Ramirez – Sister of Katrina Miertschin
- The family of Agnes Niesner – Mother of Sandy Zoch

### **SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES:**

- Christopher Brand – US Navy – Great Lakes, Illinois
- Warren Evans – US Army – Fort Wainwright, Alaska
- Jake Hagood – US Army – Fort Hood, Texas
- Damien Hernandez – US Marines – San Diego, California
- Ryan Spray – US Air Force – San Antonio, Texas
- Byron Taylor – US Army – Fort Knox, Kentucky

### **MISSIONARIES:**

- Julie Aftab – People of the Book Lutheran Outreach – Houston, TX
- Rev. Duane Meissner – Belize Mission Society

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## **This Week at Saint Michael's:**

*All church activities through Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> are cancelled. We will make a determination about our activities that are scheduled for after April 3<sup>rd</sup> as things continue to develop over the next week or two. Our aim is to return to a normal schedule of corporate worship and church activities as soon as it is possible according to Godly wisdom, concern for our vulnerable neighbors, and respect for our civil authorities.*

*There are a couple of things at Saint Michael's that will continue on as usual during this week. Please know that I am not on vacation or hiatus, but am continuing to work as your pastor during this time. If you would like to talk, need assistance of any kind, or would like for me to visit with you in-person, I am more than willing to do so! In any personal visits, we will, of course practice good hygiene out of concern for our neighbors and will not gather in groups of more than 10 in accordance with the directives of our County Judge and Governor. At times I will be working from my office at the church and at other times, I will be working from my home. Please give me a call anytime 24/7 on my cellphone at 979-966-8036 for any needs or to talk or arrange a visit. Our secretary, Amanda Behrens, will also be in the office Tuesday-Thursday from 9:30-3:30 to assist with any needs. Also, the church building is open if you would like to use it as a place of prayer and reflection during the week. While I do not think that it would be likely that everyone would come to use the church at one time, please be mindful of the limit of no more than 10 people gathering at once.*

*-Pastor Nate*

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**Staying in Communication:** During the COVID-19 crisis please be sure to check out our website, Facebook (@smlcwinchestertx), and e-mails for updated information on church activities. If you have not been receiving e-mails, please contact Amanda B. at [secretary@stmichaelswinchester.org](mailto:secretary@stmichaelswinchester.org)

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**Volunteer Help Available:** We have volunteers through the church who are willing to help anyone who has a specific need at this time such as help getting groceries, supplies, etc. If you have such a need or know someone who does, please contact Tom Atkins at 512-750-3345 or me on my cell phone.

**Full Scholarships to Camp Lone Star Available:** Saint Michael's has full scholarships available for children of our church members to attend a week of camp this summer at Camp Lone Star. For more information, contact Pastor Nate. Please visit <http://www.lomt.com/summercamp.html> to look at the summer schedule and activities.

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**POBLO Sunday (March 29<sup>th</sup>) Worship at the Park Cancelled:** Our POBLO Sunday on March 29<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

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**Clean-Up Day:** The Board of Trustees has planned a clean-up day for the Sanctuary and Education Building on April 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00am until finished. We are still hoping to be able to move forward with this event if possible. For more information ask Bobby Miertschin.

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