

Sunday, March 3rd 2024

The Third Sunday in Lent



SAINT MICHAEL'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH • LCMS

W I N C H E S T E R  T E X A S

Worship God. | Love One Another. | Serve All People.

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Winchester, Texas 78945

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A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS:

Welcome to Saint Michael's Lutheran Church! We are a historic congregation committed to continuing the mission of Jesus Christ in our community. We are very excited to have you worshiping the Lord with us this morning. You are always welcome in our church! Here are a few helpful things to know about Saint Michael's:

- Our beautiful and historic church building was built in 1906. Unfortunately, this means that it was not built with restrooms. Restrooms are located in our education building next door.
- A changing table for infants is located in classroom 4 in the education building.
- During our worship service, attendance books will be passed across the pews. Please take a moment to register your presence with us in the book and include your address and phone number so we can follow up with you in the future.
- Our pastor, Rev. Nate Hill, is always willing to meet with you to answer any questions that you might have about our church and beliefs or to be of help in any way that he is able. Please introduce yourself to him this morning. He will be thrilled to meet you!

We hope that you find Saint Michael's to be a place where you feel at home as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

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.

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING THREE WITH COMMUNION

Prelude

Selected Music

Ringling of the Church Bell

Ushers

Welcome and Greeting

Opening Hymn

"The Law of God is Good and Wise"

LSB #579

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✝ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

(Hebrews 10:22)

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

(John 20:19-23)

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 69:14-16; antiphon: v. 9

For zeal for your house has consumed me,
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

Deliver me from sinking in the mire;
let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.

Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,
or the pit close its mouth over me.

Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good;
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.



G Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Kyrie

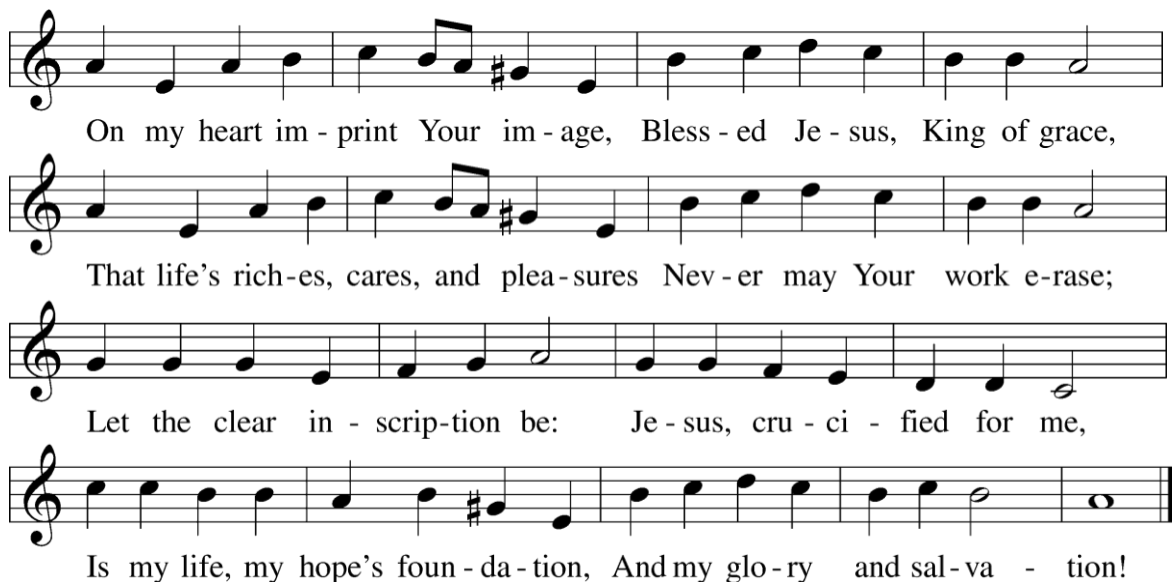
Mark 10:47



G Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,
That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - 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, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

¹And God spoke all these words, saying,

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.

⁴Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In them he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the just decrees of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey

and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

John 2:13-25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, **“Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.”** ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

¹⁸So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, **“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”** ²⁰The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

²³Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Pastor

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day *“May God Bestow on Us His Grace”*

LSB#824

Sermon

*“A Disruptive Jesus”
John 2:13-25*

Rev. Nate Hill

Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12



 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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Offering *(Please sign the attendance books as they are passed)* Ushers

*If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online,
you may do so at www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give*



Prayer of the Church

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Important Information about Holy Communion Today

Today, we will celebrate Holy Communion, where Jesus Christ offers us his true body and true blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. This Sacrament is also an expression of the unity in faith, doctrine, and practice of those who receive it together.

If you are a confirmed member in good standing of this or another LCMS congregation, we welcome you to commune with us today. However, if you are uncertain about our beliefs and practices surrounding Holy Communion, we ask that you refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please let Pastor Nate know. He would be happy to meet with you to talk about the blessings of church membership and Holy Communion!

For those who are sensitive to alcohol, the cups in the center of the communion tray contain water with one drop of wine added.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

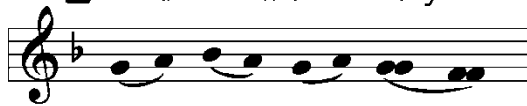


P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.

(Colossians 3:1)



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

(Psalm 136)



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution Hymns

"The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"
"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

LSB #624
 LSB #425

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

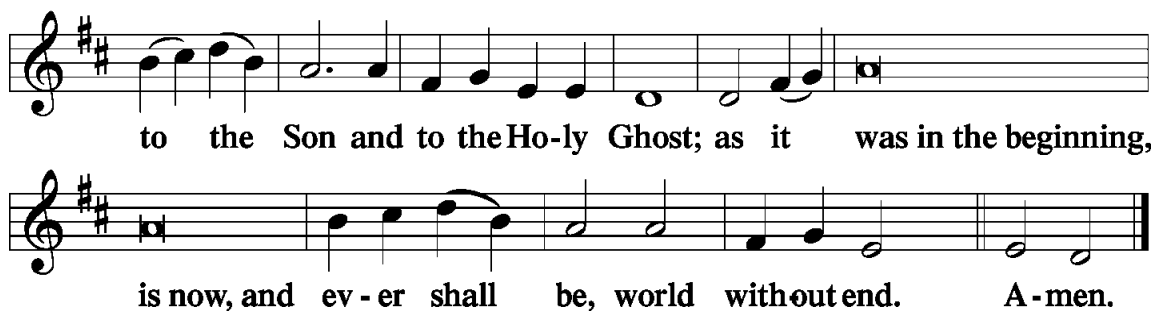
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

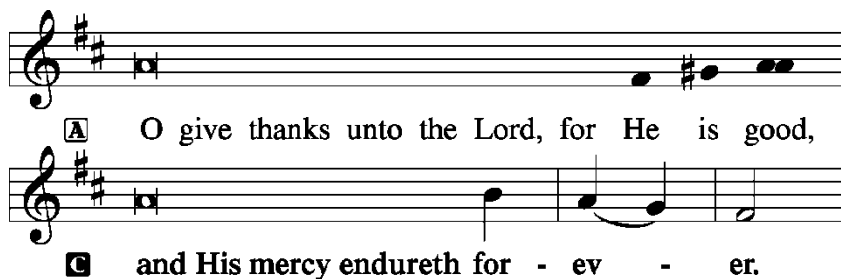
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



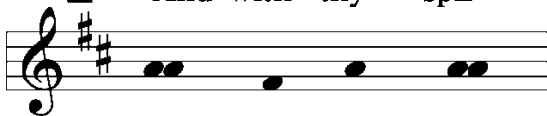
Salutation and Benedicamus



2 Timothy 4:22



C And with thy spir - it.



A Bless we the Lord.

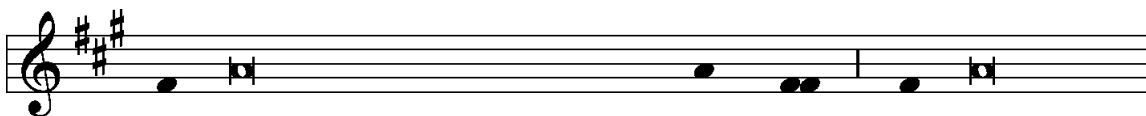
(Psalm 103:1)



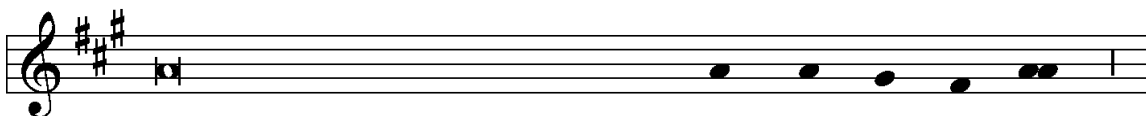
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

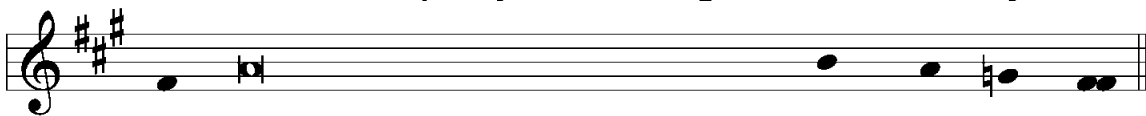
Number 6:24-26



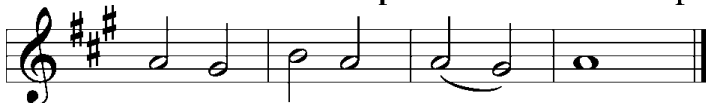
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Announcements

Pastor

Closing Hymn

"Built on the Rock"

LSB#645

Postlude

Selected Music

PRAYERS AT SAINT MICHAEL'S

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

- Melinda Bennett – *Bill Karisch's Friend*
- Debra Bradley – *Garry Synatschk's Mother*
- Lindi Braddock – *Katrina Miertschin's Friend*
- Kourtney Burton
- Erland Carlson – *Leann McClain's Brother*
- Jeannie Doyle – *Larry Herzog's Daughter*
- Charlene Franke
- Myrtle Friemel – *Carol Ahlschlager's Friend*
- Ivan Fritsche
- Sam Gibbs
- Nellie Gonzalez
- Gavon Grayson – *Glenn and Stacy Zoch's Friend*
- Jerry Hielscher
- Delores Karisch
- Morgan Ray Karisch
- Evelyn Kasper – *Bill Karisch's Mother*
- Thelma Kieschnik
- Audrey Koenning
- Mary Lehmann
- John Lievsay, Jr – *Kelly Franke's Brother*
- Kevin Margeson – *Kurtis Hankemeier's Brother*
- Cannon Martin – *Kolton Montgomery's Friend*
- Karen McDougall – *Mark McClain's Sister*
- Travis Miertschin
- Dianna Mitschke
- Kolton Montgomery
- Janet Murphy – *Richard Davis's Sister-in-Law*
- Dianna Noack – *Secretary at St. Paul Serbin*
- Dwayne Patterson – *James Franke Family's Friend*
- Mary Patterson – *James Franke Family's Friend*
- Lillian Pietsch
- Victoria Pope – *Mark McClain's Friend*
- Marceil Prestridge
- Layne Schramm – *Thelma Kieschnik's Grandson*
- Marie Schulz
- Raymond Schulz
- Laverne Schulze
- Barbara Spence

SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES:

- Christopher Brand – US Navy – Great Lakes, Illinois
- Caleb Burton – US Army – Fort Carson, Colorado
- Manuel Comacho – US Air Force – Serving in Israel – *Irma Gersch's Friend*
- Warren Evans – US Army – Fort Bragg, North Carolina
- Jake Hagood – US Army – Fort Hood, Texas
- Kaleb Pyle – US Army – Fort Bliss, Texas
- Dylan Robbins – USMC – Jacksonville, North Carolina
- Ryan Spray – US Air Force – San Antonio, Texas
- Erik Vallejo – Texas National Guard – United States Border

MISSIONARIES:

- Julie Aftab – People of the Book Lutheran Outreach – Houston, TX
- Abba's House – LCMS Ministry to Refugees – Cypress, TX – <https://abbashousetexas.com/>

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING: are given to the glory of God by Barry and Sandy Zoch in celebration of their 29th wedding anniversary.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL’S:

Sunday, March 3rd

- 9:00am – Worship Service with Communion – *Sanctuary*
- 10:15am – Sunday School/Bible Study – *Education Building*
- 2:00pm – Confirmation – *Education Building*

Monday, March 4th

- 7:00pm – Board of Elders – *Education Building*
- 7:00pm – WACA – *Zilss Hall*

Tuesday, March 5th

- 9:00am – Quilting – *Education Building*
- 7:00pm – Board of Trustees – *Education Building*

Wednesday, March 6th

- 9:30am – Bible Class – *Education Building*
- 7:00pm – Lent Midweek Service – *Sanctuary*

Saturday, March 9th

- 8:30am – Farmers Market – *Zilss Hall*

Sunday, March 10th

- 9:00am – Worship Service – *Sanctuary*
 - 10:15am – Sunday School/Bible Study – *Education Building*
-

Sunday School: “A Basket of Hope” is today’s lesson in which participants explore the birth of Moses. Three hundred years after the death of Joseph, Egypt’s new pharaoh despises the Hebrews. Pharaoh demands greater work output from the Hebrew slaves while seeking to reduce their population through infanticide. Moses’ mother manages to hide baby Moses until he is three months old, when she finally sets him afloat in a basket. Discovered by Pharaoh’s daughter, Moses enters a life of privilege.

Casserole Crew: Katrina Miertschin is on for the month of March. If you know of someone with a need for a meal in the congregation or community, please contact Katrina at (979)702-0951.

Collecting items for Orphan Grain Train: Orphan Grain Train is coming the month of March, so gather all your unused sheets, towels, and adult and children's clothing, along with shoes, purses, and cookware. NO glass or plastic please. Drop off at the Education Building on Sunday or Wednesday mornings.

Easter Eggs, Candy, and Egg Fillers Needed! Easter is fast approaching. The Education Board is looking for donations of plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy. Pre-filled eggs or other items can be donated through the middle of March. Donations can be left in the youth Sunday school room. Anyone available to fill eggs can come to the education building on **Wednesday, March 20 at 5 pm**. Many hands make light work!

Children Singing for Easter: The Board of Education is inviting all of our children to join us to sing a song during the 9:00 Easter Service. Practice will begin on Sunday, March 3rd at the beginning of the Sunday School hour and will continue throughout March. Practice is not expected to be any longer than 20-30 minutes.

Feel free to reach out to Amanda Hart, at 979.540.0600, if you have any questions. We hope to have all of our beautiful children join us for this special event!

Flowers for Easter: If you would like to add lilies or hydrangeas to the church for Easter, have them at the church by **3:00pm** on the **30th of March**.

Come join us! LWML is inviting ALL St. Michael's ladies to join them in Bible Study and fellowship on the Third Tuesday each month at 11:00am in the Education Building. Always interesting, educational, and informative about the service of LWML ladies throughout the USA.

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 camplonestar.org/summer-camp/ to look at the summer and activities.

Holy Cross Fundraiser: The Holy Cross Youth Group annual pork steak fundraiser will be held Sunday, March 10th. Drive thru only at the Holy Cross picnic grounds from 10:00-12:30. Plates are \$15 each and include pork steak, green beans, noodles, and corn. This meal is presale only by Thursday, Feb. 29th. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Chevron in LaGrange, First National Bank of Giddings, or from any Holy Cross youth group member. There will also be a bake sale with homemade items for a freewill donation.

Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller from St. Paul-Austin Invites You! Set sail on a spiritual adventure with our four-day Lutheran Singles Cruise, departing from Galveston on August 1st. This journey is designed for connection and fellowship, offering daily devotions, Bible studies, and opportunities to meet like-minded singles. Embrace this chance to deepen your faith, make new friends, and enjoy the beauty of the sea. Don't miss out on this unique blend of spiritual growth and social fun – book your spot today! Learn more at www.wolfmueller.co/cruise.



**LWML POST OAK ZONE
SPRING RALLY
HOSTED BY
HOLY TRINITY - FEDOR**

**REGISTRATION 1:30 PM
RALLY KICKS OFF AT 2 PM**

REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW

**INGATHERING - FUNDS TO SEND
OUR GEMS TO CONVENTION
THIS SUMMER.**



Don't forget to bring your travel fund check. \$7 per member for each group.

Moving toward Weekly Communion – “Won’t Communion Become Too Ordinary?”

Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend last week’s Bible Study on the Lord’s Supper where I had the chance to answer people’s questions about our congregation’s move toward weekly Communion which will begin on Easter Sunday. If you didn’t have the chance to be there or have your own questions that you would like answered one on one, please reach out to me and I will be happy to speak with you!

This week I would like to address one concern that someone might have about a church moving toward celebrating the Lord’s Supper every Sunday. That question is “Won’t Communion become too ordinary and not seem special?” I appreciate this concern because first of all it shows that the person asking such a question has a sincere appreciation for the Lord’s Supper and approaches the Supper mindful of just what a wonder it is that Christ would give us his true body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins.

Allow me to give an answer to this concern. On a human level we often don’t know what we’ve got until it is gone. Thus we have the saying “absence makes the heart grow stronger.” Yet who would choose to forego the presence of their husband or wife, for example, just to come to the realization of what a blessing they are? It is far better to realize that one’s husband or wife is a blessing and then enjoy the blessing without a forced time apart. The same is true for the Lord’s Supper. The realization of just how great a blessing it is *can* indeed come about when we are away from the Supper. But that is *not the only way* that we can realize the blessing of the Supper. It is far better that we pause to contemplate the mystery of Holy Communion and make use of it at every opportunity, than to take the long road of separating ourselves from it in order to come to the same realization.

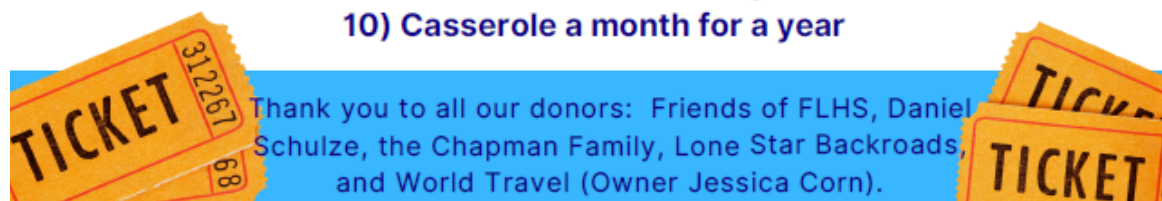
One could make the same argument about other things we hold dear. Perhaps one ought to only tell their children that they love them on their birthday so that the expression of parental love is always something “special.” Or perhaps we should only have coffee in Bible Study every other week so that the coffee service isn’t “too ordinary.” I am of course being sarcastic.

Far better to do all of these things regularly, especially the celebration of the Sacrament! Will it become “too ordinary” and cease to be special? Absolutely not! And if it does, the answer is for one to simply pause, reflect on God’s Word about the Supper, and then recapture the wonder of what the Lord does for us at His Table!

– Pastor Nate



- 1) \$1700 Travel Voucher with World Travel
- 2) Custom AR Rifle made by Jigsaw Weaponry (up to \$750)
- 3) Kalahari Resort - 1 night stay in 2bed/2bath suite
with 5 waterpark passes
- 4) Valentine's Do Over Package (\$450+)
- 5) Relax and Chill Package (\$700+)
- 6) Staycation Package (\$400+)
- 7) Handcrafted Cedar Lineman Truck, 2024 Silver Coin and
Set of Wooden Porch Rocking Chairs
- 8) Handcrafted Cedar Train, 2023 Silver Coin,
and Lone Star Back Roads Framed Photo (Winner's Choice)
- 9) Dessert a month for a year
- 10) Casserole a month for a year



Manheim Parish Hall/ Renovation Fund BBQ Chicken Fundraiser

Sunday, March 17

Serving at the
Lincoln Community Center

10:30 a.m. until sold out

Drive-thru only!

Drive-thru only!

Whole Chicken - \$14

Pint of Beans - \$3

Pint of Noodles - \$3

1 cup of Sauce - \$2