

# Fourth Sunday in Lent March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Order of Service

7:45 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
DSIII (pg.184)	DSIII (pg.184)
Hymns	Hymns
537,758,689	537,758,689,636

Sermon . . . . . *Pastor Gary Beck*

## Scripture Readings

*Isaiah 42:14-21:* "For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant. I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools. I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. But those who trust in idols, who say to images, 'You are our gods,' will be turned back in utter shame. "Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the Lord? You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen." It pleased the Lord for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious.

*Ephesians 5:8-14:* For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose

them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

*John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39:* As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in

the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

## Serving in Worship Today

Elders . . . . . *Kevin Kern; Mark Schiefer, Dennis Thurston, Lucas Brown*  
 Organist . . . . . *Donna Haubenstricker*  
 Choir . . . . . *Handbells*  
 Usher . . . . . *Jeff Buchinger; Alan Kischnick*  
 Altar Guild . . . . . *Bev Bierlein; Linda Trombley*  
 Acolytes . . . . . *Elaine Cook; Aubrey Baase*

## Wednesday

Elder . . . . . *Ben Bekemeier, Lucas Brown, Rodney Hecht*  
 Pianist . . . . . *Calista Daenzer*  
 Choir . . . . . *Adult Choir*  
 Usher . . . . . *Alan Kischnick*

## This week at St. Michael's

Today . . . . . Worship Service 7:45 a.m.  
    Bible Class/KidzMin 9 a.m.  
    Communion 10:30 a.m.  
    Voters Meeting after late service  
 Mon . . . . . Newsletter Deadline  
    Bd. Of Education 6 p.m.  
    Lutheran Laymen's League 7 p.m.  
 Tue . . . . . Executive Committee 7 p.m.  
    Adult Choir 7 p.m.  
 Wed . . . . . Lenten Supper 5:30 p.m.  
    Lenten Communion (5-8) 7 p.m.  
 Sat. . . . . LLL Card Party 2 p.m.  
 Next Sun. . . . . Communion 7:45 a.m.  
    Bible Class/KidzMin 9 a.m.

Worship Service (K-1) 10:30 a.m.  
*Passion Drama Rehearsal after late service*

*Welcome Pastor Beck!* We welcome Pastor Gary Beck as our guest this morning. He will also lead Bible Class between services as we continue our look at the Lord's Prayer.

*Voters Meeting* after late service today, on the agenda: Calling a Music Director.

*Executive Committee* meets Tuesday at 7 p.m.

*Midweek Lenten Worship:* The sin of Wrath was very much on display on Good Friday as an angry mob screamed for the blood of Jesus. However, the blood they so viciously demanded cleanses us of our sins. Holy Communion this Wednesday at 7:00.

*Lenten Supper @ 5:30:* Our Lenten Supper for Wednesday will be hosted by St. Michael's PTL. Donations will support St. Michael's Athletic Department. On the menu: Soup, Salads and Desserts!

*LLL Card Party* Sat. March 21<sup>st</sup>, starting at 2 p.m., see the poster in the foyer for more details.

*St. Michael's School and ECC* will be having an Open House, Monday, March 23 from 6:00-7:30 pm for Preschool 4s and Kindergarten.

*Board of Education Meeting* has been rescheduled to Mon. March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m.

*Cemetery Clean Up* is March 28<sup>th</sup>. Please have all grave blankets and items picked up by then; anything left will be removed and discarded.

*Contribution Envelopes:* It is time to order our paper contribution envelopes for 2027. Many of you are using online giving or other means for

your contributions and the paper envelopes go unused. If you would like to be taken OFF the list to receive paper envelopes, please contact the church office (church@stmichaelsrichville.org) by March 30 (If you choose not to receive paper envelopes, you will still retain your envelope number. This way, any contribution via Kindrid or other check can still be tracked for year end statements. Cash donations, as always, will not be tracked and go into Home Purpose.) Sign up information can be found on the next page.

*Grant applications* for St Michael's Endowment Non-Designated Fund are now available on our website or in the church office. These applications may be turned in at the church office and are due March 30. Any questions, contact Pam Bierlein 989-971-3340.

**THRIVENT MEMBERS:** Your Thrivent Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2026! You may do so by: going online at [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) OR calling (800) 847-4836 and saying "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. Don't let your Thrivent Choice Dollars expire!

*Mary Martha Rummage Sale:* Reminder: Save items for our sale coming up! (April 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>) Collection will be April 6<sup>th</sup>; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. & April 7<sup>th</sup>; 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

*Locking the doors:* Sometimes on windy days the air pressure keeps the church doors from closing completely. If you are leaving the building, please give the doors a push to make sure the doors are closed and locked.

*Sixteen tubs of silverware* have been dropped off to be wrapped. If you would like to help, the tubs are located in the foyer to the right as you walk

in. Feel free to take a tub or two to wrap. When you finish wrapping, please return them to the same area. The wrapped silverware is used for the Franklin Avenue Mission and for various events at St. Michael's. Thank you, Outreach

*Easter Cards* along with other greeting cards are available for \$1 by the church office.

*Did you know?* The first discussions about building a new church began as early as 1941, during the congregation's 90th Anniversary celebration. At that time, members also began raising funds for the future building - continuing their efforts for nearly three decades. It wasn't until 1969 that the groundbreaking service was finally held and construction of the new church building began.

Attendance

Sun. March 8 <sup>th</sup> .....	364
Wed. March 11 <sup>th</sup> .....	263

Other News

*The Lutheran Hour* airs on WSAM-1400 from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Next Sunday: "Meeting You Where You Are" *Guest Speaker:* Rev. Gregory Manning; Jesus meets you where you are, not where you should have been. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

*Camp Lutherhaven:* Looking for a meaningful summer experience? Camp Lutherhaven offers adventure, friendship, and time rooted in God's Word. Campers might spend the day shooting archery, swimming in the lake, or conquering challenges with cabin mates - then gather for worship, Bible study, and reflection. Summer 2026's theme is "Run" (1 Tim. 6:11), inviting campers to explore how God calls us to live with purpose and faith. Register before April 1<sup>st</sup> to

receive the Early Bird discount. Learn more at [lutherhaven.org](http://lutherhaven.org) or call (260)636-7101.

Prayers

Health

*Lucas Brown; Michelle DeCoe; Ben Dzioba; Don Duperon; Hope Hecht; Walt Hecht; Faith Heinlein; Ann Houser; Craig Keinath; Carolyn Navarre; Eugene Palmreuter; Rollie Wenzel*

Mission

Rev. Nathaniel and Emma Jensen serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Nathaniel is pastor of Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church, which serves U.S. military members stationed in the area as well as other English speakers. In addition, Nathaniel works with the Synod's partner church in Germany to proclaim the Gospel to non-English speakers, and he serves as a mentor to seminary students throughout the region.

Prayer of the Day

"Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning.  
Though we do not deserve Your goodness You still provide for all our needs of body and soul. We pray that You would send us Your Holy Spirit that we may receive Your merciful blessings and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen."

Online Giving—It's easy to setup electronic donations.

1. Go to the St. Michael's webpage, "stmichaelsrichville.org" and scroll down and click on the "I Give Online" button. Click "Sign In"
2. Scroll down to where it says, "Don't have a Giving Account?", and click on "Create one". Enter your Name, Address, and Email Address. Enter your bank account or credit card information.
3. Choose a recurring donation (weekly or monthly) or a one-time donation. Once your account is open, you can select which fund(s) to donate to. The regular funds like Home Purpose, Missions, Capital Improvement, New Construction, and Church Technology, are available, but so are all the Endowment Funds and other various funds to select. There is also an optional button to check if you want to pay an additional 2.5%, to help offset the processing fees.

If you need help, please contact Carol Hess (989)225-5612 or [church@stmichaelsrichville.org](mailto:church@stmichaelsrichville.org) to walk you through the process.

Scan Here to Sign Up!

