

# THE TRUMPET

*St. Michael's of the Valley...making an eternal difference in each other's lives and in the world*

St. Michael's of the Valley Episcopal Church, PO Box 336, Ligonier, PA 15658

Phone: 724-238-9411 Church office hrs. Monday – Friday 9 AM until noon

April, 2023

Dear People of God at St. Michael's,

By the time you receive this letter from me, it will almost be Holy Week. I'm wondering how the meditation kits from Ash Wednesday are working out for you. I hope they have and will continue to provide some quiet time to sit and listen to the voice of God speaking to you.

Over the last few weeks, I have enjoyed the Bible study of Ruth and Esther that was held on Thursday nights. That Esther, what a brave woman. God was surely with her as she did the work to save her people.

I pray for a meaningful Holy Week and Easter for you.

One of the most important things that happens in a community like St. Michael's is communication. And, it will be even more important as you plan for a new future with a new rector. Thus, it's time to restore the newsletter! I'm asking Belva to stop sending out snippets for news here and there and instead roll all of our information into one mailing. But I invite you to give her ministry schedules, news, announcements, and upcoming events. The more information the better. I know sometimes we get into our own ministry ruts and don't feel like we need to communicate it, but it is how we know what each other is up to. Something as simple as being reminded that there is an opportunity to purchase memorial flowers.

It is a good tool of evangelism because someone who signs up to get the news will see how vital we are.

Here are some suggestions of things you may choose to contribute: An invitation to the beginning of a new Bible Study on Sunday, an interesting story about St. Michael's cemetery, updates from the Transition Committee, how to become a Lay Reader-and next month's schedule, something from the last Vestry meeting, something from the Treasurer, a recipe from a coffee-hour goody, updates on the Fair, or a thank you note for something special that happened around the parish.

The sky is the limit. Please have all articles into the office as early as possible and no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication on the last day of the month.

Blessings on you, Cat+

## HOLY WEEK LIFT IT UP! HOLY WEEK IS AT HAND!

### **Maundy Thursday,**

In case you have always wondered what “Maundy” means:

The name is thought to be a Middle English derivation taken from a Latin anthem sung in Roman Catholic churches on that day: “Mandatum novum do vobis” (“a new commandment I give to you”; John 13:34).<sup>1</sup> In some churches it is known as Holy Thursday, the names are interchangeable. But, of course, you know Episcopalians are good for using the highbred titles.

On this day we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist when Jesus broke bread at the Last Supper. The day also recognizes Jesus washing the feet of the Disciples. And, finally it remembers the night when Jesus was in the Garden and he asked the disciples to stay and pray with him, but they fell asleep. In many churches, it is also the day the altar guild and others clean everything out of the chancel symbolizing the tomb and preparing for the Second Coming of Christ.

**Good Friday**, the day Jesus died. Some people don’t like to attend worship because it makes them feel sad. I understand, but there are a couple of other ways to look at it.

It is the Biblical and faithful way of sitting with our loved one Jesus as he died. It is the same idea as sitting with loved ones as they make their final journey home. The other thought, is that when we jump over Holy Week and go straight to Easter are we missing something? The whole week, from Palm Sunday to Easter is one container filled with faithfulness; the beginning of the story, the middle, and the beautiful ending as Jesus returns from the dark cave to bring us new life.

In one of my earlier messages, I reminded everyone that in our Book of Common Prayer, Ash Wednesday is one of two “Special Days of Devotion” Good Friday is the other.



### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>,

Rite I Holy Eucharist, 8:00 AM

Rite II Holy Eucharist, 10:30 AM

### **A NOTE FROM SR. WARDEN ~ NANCY ROST**

Greetings to all as Spring weather moves in to replace winter! Prayers to God to send strength to all those recovering from violent tornadoes in Mississippi and across the southern states. What an intense reminder that change often does not come easily. St. Michael's has experienced significant change over the past eight months and surely has more coming. Unlike those living in Mississippi, it is our spiritual rather than physical home that has lost its roof. (I feel a flood of analogies coming on, but I will refrain) I am grateful for Rev. Munz' guidance as we work our way through these changes and am confident that we will weather the storm (oh my) even if a bit of remodeling is required (all right, I got carried away). I am grateful to all of our parishioners who are working hard to see us through this storm (could not resist) whether by serving on the vestry or other committee, by participating in services when no supply priest is available, or by just continuing to participate in church activities as if nothing has changed. If we let God be our umbrella (oh my heavens, never mind!) I wish you God's Peace.

### **VESTRY REPORT**

The Vestry met on March 20. Rex Ashbrook happily reviewed the Income Statement ending February that showed we have a current surplus. Rev. Munz discussed her meeting with the staff on March 15 that clarified her role as a bridge between the staff and the vestry and that her job is to prepare the Vestry, parish and staff for the new Rector. She also noted that she instituted a 3-week vacation policy for all staff. Mr. Murphy reported that he has recruited a Building and Grounds committee consisting of himself, Mac Fiddner, Shelley Miller, Cindy Purnell and David Vale. Cindy and Rev. Munz reviewed plans for the Vestry Retreat to be held on March 31 and April 1. Cindy also reported that the Discernment Committee had reviewed applications for Rector and that interviews would start the week of March 20. Finally, there was some discussion on the Diocesan salary guidelines for Clergy which will be applicable for our new Rector. We won't know the specifics of any salary until we know who the new Rector will be. That's all folks.....Lisa Laskow, Secretary to the Vestry

### **DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

As we communicated to you on March 13, the Discernment Committee has reviewed the applications we received and determined which candidates we wished to include in the actual interview process. We interviewed several candidates by Zoom the week of March 20. By the time you read this, the committee will have decided which candidates to move forward in the discernment process.

After Easter, we will take the next steps to do parish visits and face to face interviews. We will continue with prayerful consideration, and by God's grace, have a candidate to present to the Vestry later this spring.

## ST. MICHAEL'S CEMETERY

St. Michael's of the Valley Cemetery is a non-profit corporation located adjacent to the church. It was founded in 1958 for the reverent and Christian burial of members of the parish and others in the community with the intent of retaining the simplicity and natural beauty of the countryside. The cemetery is under the direction and control of a Board of Directors consisting of seven directors, one of which being the rector of St. Michael's. There have been nearly 400 internments in the cemetery since its establishment. Interestingly, most of the existing graves in the cemetery have been catalogued on the Find a Grave website ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)). This site provides users with a virtual cemetery experience, with images and information of grave markers from around the world. The individual cemetery records are created by volunteers who have submitted information to Find a Grave. The website is a place where people can search for the graves of friends or relatives or pursue interests in genealogy.

If you have any questions regarding the cemetery, either its history, operation, or how to purchase a burial site, please contact Mick Pompelia at [mpompelia@gmail.com](mailto:mpompelia@gmail.com).

### SCHEDULE OF SERVERS FOR APRIL

#### April 6, Maundy Thursday, 7:00 PM

Lay Reader: Susan Williams

Usher: Carl Campbell

#### April 7, Good Friday

Lay Reader: Laura Fisher

#### April 9, Easter Sunday

##### 8:00 AM

Lay Readers: Bobbie Off

Ushers: *still needed*

##### 10:30 AM

Susan Williams

Carl Campbell

#### April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

##### 8:00 AM

Lay Readers: Jan Carlin

Usher: *Still needed*

##### 10:30 AM

Pilar Herr

Andy Herr

#### April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

##### 8:00 AM

Lisa Laskow

Sam Pollina

##### 10:30 AM

Cindy Pompelia

Mick Pompelia

#### April 30, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

##### 8:00 AM

Lay Readers: Lisa Laskow

Ushers: *still needed*

##### 10:30 AM

Laura Fisher

Carl Campbell

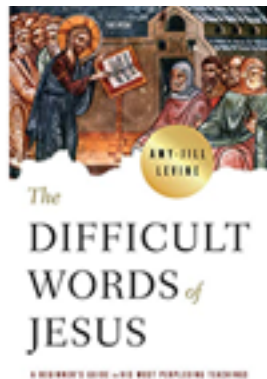
**THE DIFFICULT WORDS OF JESUS**  
**April 18, 2:00pm for the following 6 weeks.**

**Book Study with Rev. Cat**

Please join me in this book study that I am leading online for both St. Michael's and St. Paul's. Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); he calls Jews the devil's children (John 8:44).

In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

Book available on Amazon



★★★★★ 346

[The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings](#)  
[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Please email me [link2cat@icloud.com](mailto:link2cat@icloud.com) if you would like to attend and I'll add you to the Zoom link list!

### **ALTAR FLOWER MEMORIAL DATES AVAILABLE**

The following dates are available for memorial flowers on the altar at St. Michaels. If you are interested in having memorial flowers in memory or honor of someone for any of the following dates, please contact the Church office Monday thru Friday from 9 AM until noon. The cost for a memorial is \$55.00. Available dates are as follows: April 23rd, April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup> & May 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **MIDWEEK HOLY EUCHARIST AND HEALING SERVICE**

Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> ~ 10:00 AM

### **AGUA VIVA IMPACT 2022**

Agua Viva is a Christian ministry dedicated to helping vulnerable, at-risk Guatemalan children grow to be well educated, godly Christian adults living in God-honoring families and serving their own people. Agua Viva provided jobs for 41 employees. Provided a high-quality Christian Education for 268 students. They provided 230 student scholarships. Each scholarship students needs two sponsors so we can continue to provide a high-quality Christian education. A new Garden of Hope program was launched, which is a new day care program which provides safe, Christian child care for working parents in the community. Also, launched a Bible Training Center which provides Gospel centered teaching to pastors, leaders, and Christians who want to grow in their faith. Donations from 302 individuals, families, churches and businesses were received. Agua Viva can't wait to see what God will do in 2023.